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ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS

A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS
FROM THE
ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

TEACHER'S MANUAL

ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS

A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

JAN 21 2009

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

TEACHER'S MANUAL

by

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ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
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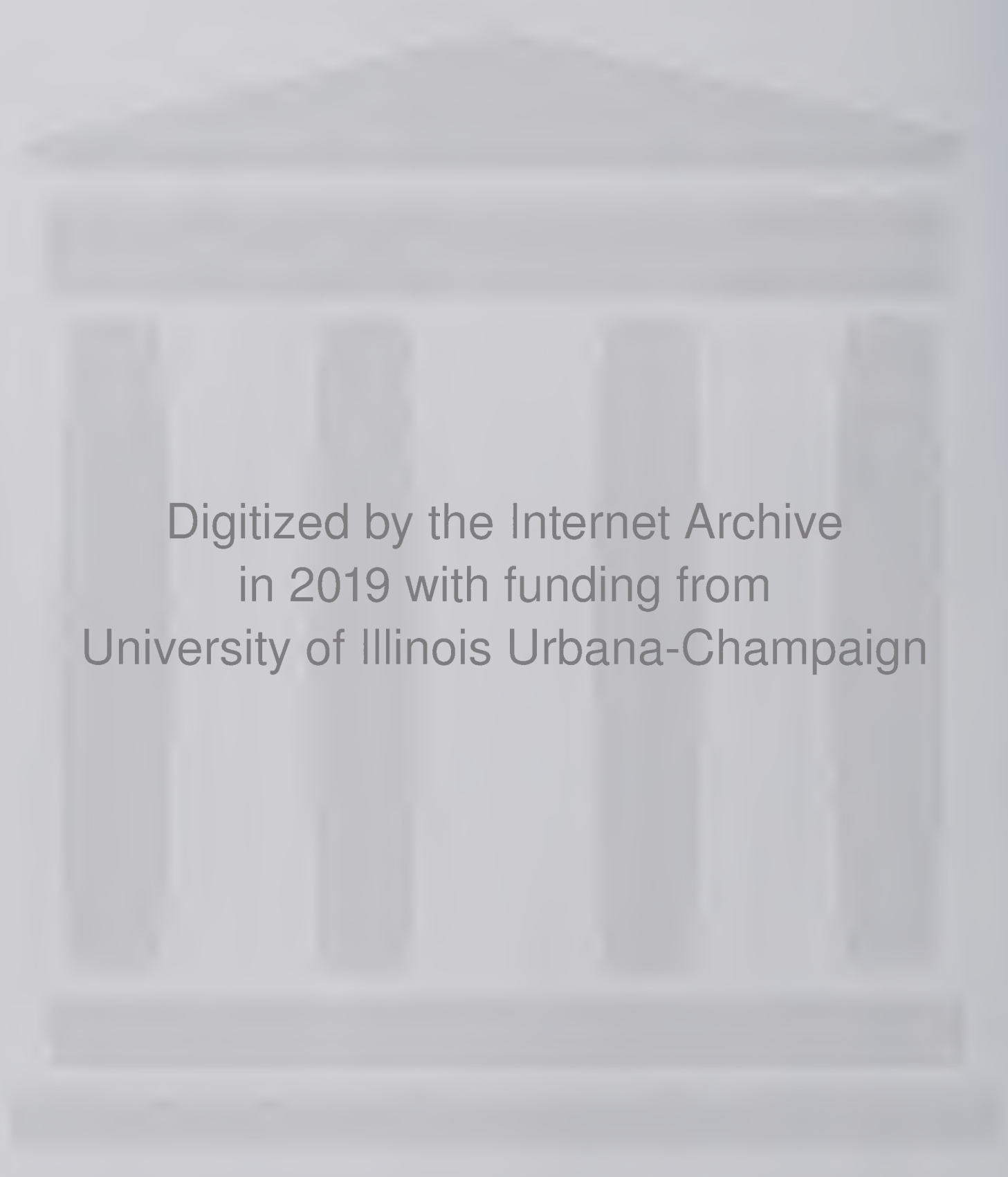
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INTRODUCTION

The use of local events to enhance the classroom study of American history has received considerable attention for the past several years. Teachers have recognized that their students often are not excited by traditional instruction in American history. Chief among criticisms has been that textbook treatments consist of dry narratives of impersonal facts that have little relevance to students' immediate lives, despite the fact that one of the principal purposes of the discipline of history is to provide students with a sense of continuity and perspective. The thirty-five document facsimiles provided in this teaching packet are intended to provide direct glimpses of events surrounding the life of Abraham Lincoln when he lived in Illinois from 1830 to 1861. Each document offers a picture of a particular circumstance at a specific time but each also should be seen in terms of how it might be relevant today. All of the events recorded by these documents occurred in Illinois and should be of interest to those who now live there.

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois is the seventh publication of its kind issued by the Illinois State Archives. Published in 1982, *Windows to the Past, 1818-1880* (now out of print) was a study packet of local history resources drawn from downstate county level records that focused on the rural development of the state. *Early Chicago, 1833-1871*, issued in 1986 and reissued in 2000, is based on sources found in the Chicago City Council's files. Its focus is on the city's development from the time of its incorporation as a town through the Great Fire. *From the Ashes, 1872-1900*, printed and distributed in 1990, covers Chicago's development after the fire up to the turn of the century. *Illinois at War, 1941-1945*, published in 1994, examines the home front during the Second World War. *The*

Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911, released in 1998, studies the making of, the operation of, and the demise of the canal. *Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940*, released in 2002, tells the story of the Depression era in Illinois. The formats of *Abraham Lincoln in Illinois*, *Hard Times in Illinois*, *The Illinois and Michigan Canal*, *Illinois at War*, *From the Ashes*, *Early Chicago*, and *Windows* resemble each other closely and they can be used in conjunction. All seven can be integrated into the regular course of instruction in American or Illinois history.

Abraham Lincoln in Illinois consists of an instructor's manual and thirty-five photographic reproductions of documents from the time Abraham Lincoln spent in Illinois. The teacher's manual outlines the objectives of the study packet, discusses the nature of the documents, gives a brief historical background for the period considered, offers a selected bibliography, and provides a chronological list of the documents themselves. Then, document-by-document, verbatim transcriptions are presented along with an explanation of each document and suggested points to consider.

Most of the thirty-five facsimile reproductions are the same size as the original documents. Only a few were reduced in order to fit them to the 8 1/2 x 14 inch legal size format.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this teaching package is to introduce students to local history in a meaningful manner and thereby increase interest in history in general. Taken together, the thirty-five document reproductions offer a kaleidoscopic picture of the life of Abraham Lincoln and of the Illinois he lived in and helped shape. Individual documents describe very real historical occurrences, but each leaves unanswered

questions that can be pursued by studying related documents in the packet, Illinois history in particular, and American history in general.

Subordinate objectives include teaching students how to read and understand historical documents and exposing them to historical reasoning. Besides understanding the texts of documents, students should learn how to identify significant information. Such information will enable them to make specific statements about particular circumstances at particular times. By themselves such events may have little significance but by studying additional sources broader images can be produced and generalized statements can be made to explain isolated events. This process is designed to give meaning to historical interpretation and to broaden textbook narratives. Along with teaching students how to read historical documents, another objective of the packet is to teach students how to question and analyze these documents. Finding a document is not always the end of the research trail but, in fact, may be the beginning.

State and local history offers an excellent opportunity to make the study of history in general more meaningful. A focus on a specific locality with which students associate will heighten their interest. It also offers them a sense of how their communities have evolved over time and thus gives historical perspective. But students of state and local history soon realize that the history of a locality cannot be treated as a separate entity because regional, national, and world events were of constant influence. It is hoped that this package will not only supplement the study of American history but also invigorate it. Along with providing information, primary source documents afford the opportunity to experience history on an emotive level because those documents were produced by the actual participants in history and describe events as those persons actually saw them at the time they occurred.

USE OF DOCUMENTS

The thirty-five documents in this packet were selected from the holdings of the Illinois State Archives. Lincoln's public career is well documented by these original records. Most came from the record group 600.000, Records of the General Assembly, and concern legislation he dealt with while serving as a member of the Illinois General Assembly. The remaining documents were pulled from various records series within the record groups 101.000, Office of the Governor; 103.000, Secretary of State; 105.000, Auditor of Public Accounts; 108.000, Attorney General; 301.000, Adjutant General; and 901.000, Supreme Court.

Because all of these documents concern Abraham Lincoln, they all relate to one another at various levels. The theme of this packet is how Lincoln grew as an individual, politician and leader in Illinois. However, his growth is also tied into how the state of Illinois grew during its early years and how he helped shape that growth. Because all of these documents are interrelated, a student or combinations of students can produce syntheses or different themes. Each document also stands alone as a statement of a particular circumstance in time. By using these primary documents, students should learn about Lincoln and his times and be able to ask questions about them. They should also make connections between what Lincoln did in his day and how that affects us today. In many cases, the problems Lincoln faced are problems that the state and its elected officials still wrestle with today. Finally, students should also be able to see that the documents themselves require further research to truly understand their importance and all the ways they can be used. Research with additional sources, such as those found in the *Selected Bibliography* portion of this manual, often will help clarify a document and place it in perspective. Still, it is by using primary sources that a student or scholar can

come closest to a historical figure or era. Lincoln's public career is well documented with original documents at the Illinois State Archives.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 near Hodgenville, Kentucky. He was the second child of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. His sister, Sarah, was two years older than Abraham. Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter and farmer whose father had come to Kentucky from Virginia in the 1780s, before Kentucky became a state. Thomas Lincoln had little wealth or education. In 1816 he moved his family to southern Indiana and started farming. On October 5, 1818, Nancy Hanks Lincoln died of a disease known as the milk sickness, which is caused by drinking the tainted milk or eating the meat of a cow that has eaten white snakeroot. On December 2, 1819, Thomas married Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow from Kentucky with three children. Although uneducated herself, Abraham Lincoln's new stepmother encouraged him to read and receive an education. Lincoln would attend one-room schools that were set up in the wilderness, although by Lincoln's later reckoning he did not have more than one year in total of formal education.

The Lincoln family moved to Macon County, Illinois in March 1830 and settled on the north side of the Sangamon River about ten miles west of Decatur. Illinois had been a state for less than twelve years and was still a frontier wilderness. In 1831, Lincoln piloted a flatboat filled with supplies for New Orleans. The trip went from the Sangamon River to the Illinois River to the Mississippi River. Along the way, in the tiny Sangamon County town of New Salem, the boat became stuck on a dam and Lincoln had to spend several hours freeing it. When the trip was finished, the now twenty-two-year-old Lincoln came back to New Salem to live.

In New Salem he worked a variety of jobs, including as a handyman and as both a store clerk and store owner. He also read a lot and showed an interest in learning the law. In 1832, although he had lived in New Salem for less than a year, he was encouraged by his new neighbors to run for the state legislature. That same year, before the election, the Black Hawk War started. This was the last Indian war in Illinois, occurring when the Indian chief Black Hawk crossed the Mississippi River from Iowa with about 450 warriors and 1,500 women and children to reclaim their tribal homeland. Lincoln volunteered for one month and was elected captain of his company. He served two more short terms of duty, both times as a private, before leaving the service in July 1832. The Black Hawk War was a small affair and Lincoln saw no action as a soldier. He did, however, make some contacts with influential people, including his future law partner, John Todd Stuart.

In August he lost his first bid for the legislature. A short time later, his store failed. Lincoln found work as a postmaster and a surveyor and continued to do odd jobs as a laborer. In 1834 he again ran for the state legislature and this time won office as a state representative. Before he began his term of office, he began the study of law with the help of John Todd Stuart, who was a state representative from the same district. Stuart's law office was located in Springfield about twenty miles from New Salem and Lincoln often visited there.

At this time the Illinois state capital was located in Vandalia, a small town that had been created in 1820 specifically for the purpose of being the state capital. Lincoln began his first term on December 1, 1834. He did not play an active role in the session of the General Assembly, but learned about the legislative process and how to draft bills. He

also met many important politicians. While attending the three-month session, Lincoln roomed with Stuart, an experienced legislative leader who served as his political mentor.

Lincoln returned to New Salem after the three-month session and continued the study of law while working as a postmaster and surveyor. He was reelected to the state legislature in 1836 and served a central Illinois district that had seven state representatives and two state senators. These legislators were dubbed the “Long Nine,” due to their average height being six feet. They supported internal improvements to the state and moving the state capital from Vandalia to the more centrally located Springfield.

Illinois was expanding at this time and was in dire need of a better transportation system. New Salem, for example, was a dying town, as its road system to other towns was poor and the Sangamon River was not deep enough to provide it with a reliable river route. The nine legislators from the district, including Lincoln, were in accord with other legislators who favored spending state money on internal improvements to the state, such as building roads, bridges, railroads and canals. The legislature, with Lincoln’s support, approved large funding measures for internal improvements, but in 1837 an economic depression hit the country, ensuring that most of these projects were never built and leaving the state in deep debt for the projects that had been started.

There was a hot contest during the session on relocating the state capital. Several Illinois towns vied for the honor, including Springfield, Alton, Jacksonville and Quincy. Vandalia, of course, did not wish to lose the capital. Using all of the political skills he had learned, Lincoln was able to have the legislature vote to remove the capital to Springfield by 1840. It was one of Lincoln’s most lasting legacies to his home state. To this day, Springfield remains the state capital. After the session, on April 15, 1837, Lincoln moved

to Springfield, where he would live until February 1861, when he left for Washington D.C. as the president-elect. Lincoln also received his law license in 1837 and he and John Todd Stuart opened a law partnership.

Lincoln was reelected to a third term in the state legislature in 1838. He was now the recognized leader of the Whig Party, the precursor to the Republican Party. Lincoln tried to be elected as Speaker of the House, but was defeated by a Democrat who had the backing of several independent legislators. Lincoln spent the term serving on several committees and working to protect Springfield's interests, which included making sure the vote to move the capital to Springfield wasn't overturned. One of the more controversial issues he faced this term was on dividing Sangamon County into several smaller counties.

In 1840 he was reelected to a fourth consecutive term in the legislature. During this term he again served as the leader of the Whig Party; however, in the book *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative Years*, Paul Simon writes that it appears as if Lincoln had lost interest in the legislature. It was during this time that he began courting Mary Todd, his future wife. In 1841, the law firm of Stuart and Lincoln was dissolved and Stephen T. Logan and Lincoln formed a law partnership. During this term of office, Lincoln joined with other legislators to try to tackle repaying the great debt the state had incurred from the internal improvements plan of two sessions earlier. However, the final payment of that debt would not occur until well after the Civil War.

Lincoln finished his fourth term in the legislature in 1842. On November 4, 1842, he married Mary Todd in a wedding in Springfield. On August 1, 1843, their first son, Robert Todd Lincoln, was born. In the fall of 1844, the law partnership of Lincoln and Logan was dissolved and Lincoln started a law firm with William H. Herndon.

In 1846, Lincoln ran for and won a seat in Congress. Illinois had seven congressional districts and was generally a Democratic state. Lincoln's district was the only one that had a chance of electing a Whig candidate. Leading Whig politicians agreed to take turns running for a term in Congress and so Lincoln only ran once. The Democratic Party had a majority in Congress and Democrat James K. Polk was president during Lincoln's one term, so the Whig Party played the part of the loyal opposition. In Lincoln's case, this meant opposition to the Mexican War. However, the war was popular so Lincoln's opposition cost him political favor in his district. His term in Washington allowed Lincoln to meet many of the political leaders of the day and to have a taste of national politics.

Having served his one term in Congress and having opposed an extremely popular war, Lincoln temporarily left electoral politics. He threw himself into his law practice and became one of the leading attorneys in Illinois. He practiced law in front of the state Supreme Court, the federal courts and in the various courthouses of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, which included a wide swath of counties in central Illinois. His law career also took him outside the circuit and sometimes outside the state. Several of his cases focused on transportation issues and he became a leading railroad attorney. He continued to be somewhat active in politics as a Whig Party leader, but the approaching sectional conflict between the North and the South was signaling the death of the Whig Party.

In 1854 Democrat Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas successfully promoted the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which basically allowed territories to determine whether they wanted to enter the union as slave states or free states. The act outraged many in the North, because it signaled the possibility of unlimited expansion of slavery.

Opposition to the Kansas-Nebraska Act brought Lincoln back to a more active role in politics. In 1854, he ran for the state legislature, not because he wanted to but because he was popular and was needed to help lead the ticket. His real goal was to be elected to the United States Senate, something not allowed as a state legislator. As such, shortly after winning election to the state legislature, he turned down his election. In January 1855, when the legislature met to elect a United States senator, Lincoln entered the contest with the most votes, but lost on the tenth ballot after he couldn't secure a majority of the legislature.

Undeterred, Lincoln remained active in politics. He helped form the Illinois Republican Party, which, with him acting as manager, elected the governor and other constitutional officers in the election of 1856. On June 16, 1858 the new party nominated Lincoln for United States senator. His opponent was Douglas and the two candidates canvassed the state in search of votes for their party. They met in debate seven times. Although Douglas would go on to win the Senate seat, Lincoln gained such fame and notoriety that in less than two years he became the Republican nominee for president and was elected over Douglas and two other candidates.

Lincoln left Springfield for Washington on February 11, 1861, never to return. He was shot in Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865 and died the next day. He was buried in an impressive tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. His time in Illinois had molded him for the struggles he had to face as a wartime president and he, in turn, had helped make Illinois the place it is today.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Listed below are several books and other items that chronicle Lincoln's time in Illinois. Many of these books were used for background information for this packet.

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On-Line Sources

For a complete look at the Illinois State Archives' collection of Abraham Lincoln documents that may be found on-line, please see The Illinois Digital Archives at: <http://www.idaillinois.org>.

For an updated and electronic version of *Lincoln Day by Day*, see <http://www.thelincolnlog.org>.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, along with several sponsors, is currently working to make the papers of Abraham Lincoln freely accessible on-line. For more information about this project, see <http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org>.

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DOCUMENTS 1-35

DOCUMENT 1 – PORTION OF MUSTER ROLL OF CAPTAIN A. LINCOLN’S COMPANY IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

1832

EXPLANATION

In 1828, the last of the Sauk and Fox Indians in Illinois were forced by an 1804 treaty out of Illinois and were relocated west of the Mississippi River in what is now Iowa. On April 5, 1832, Sauk Chief Black Hawk led approximately 2,000 Indians, mostly women and children, back into their tribe’s old Illinois homeland. Illinois Governor John Reynolds called for volunteers to assist the United States Army in driving Black Hawk and his followers out of Illinois. Abraham Lincoln, a twenty-three year old shopkeeper from New Salem, was one of nearly nine thousand men who volunteered from Illinois.

Lincoln joined a company that was composed mostly of men from the New Salem area who enlisted near present-day Pleasant Plains. At that time, members of a militia company elected their own officers and the approximately sixty-eight men of this company selected Lincoln as captain, the senior officer. He would later say that this election gave him more pleasure than any other success in his life.

Lincoln and his troops served for thirty days but did not see any action in the war. On May 29, the day of his muster out as captain, Lincoln enlisted in another company as a private for twenty days. He served again as a private in a third company until his discharge on July 10, 1832. Although never firing a shot, Lincoln saw dead on the battlefield, traveled throughout northern Illinois and into the Wisconsin Territory, and made friends for life. One month prior to the start of the war, Lincoln had announced his candidacy for the state legislature. Returning from service with only one month to campaign, he lost that election, finishing eighth in a field of thirteen candidates.

This document is a portion of a muster roll from the Illinois Adjutant General’s Black Hawk War Records. Among other men listed on this sheet is John Armstrong. When Lincoln moved to New Salem in 1831, Armstrong was the leader of a gang of toughs known as the “Clary’s Grove Boys.” Lincoln and Armstrong had a wrestling match in New Salem to test who was stronger. Accounts disagree about the outcome, but Lincoln proved that he would not back down from tough challenges and won the respect of former adversaries.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

How do people become officers in the military today?

Why do you think Lincoln was so proud of his election as captain?

What does it say about Lincoln that he was elected captain of his company after living in New Salem for less than a year?

DOCUMENT 1 – PORTION OF MUSTER ROLL OF CAPTAIN A. LINCOLN’S COMPANY IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

1832

TRANSCRIPTION

MUSTER ROLL of Captain A. Lincoln's Company (—) of the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers,
Colonel _____, from the _____ day of _____, 186____, when last
Mustered out of service of the United States at the mouth of Fox River. May the 24th 1832.

No.	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. <i>(Privates in alphabetical order.)</i>	RANK.	JOINED FOR SERVICE AND ENROLLED AT GENERAL RENDEZVOUS. COMMENCEMENT OF FIRST PAYMENT BY TIME.				MUSTERED INTO SERVICE.			LAST PAID	
			WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.	WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	BY PAYMASTER.	TO WHAT TIME.
			<i>(In the case of Drafted Men, See Note 9.)</i> Enlisted				<i>(In the case of Drafted Men, See Note 9.)</i>			<i>(See Note 6.)</i>	
✓	Abraham Lincoln	Captain	21 April	Richland							
✓	Samuel M. Thompson	1 st Lt.	"	Sangamon Ct'y							
✓	John Brannan	2 ^d "	"	"							
✓	John Armstrong	1 st Serg't	"	"							
✓	Tavner B. Anderson	2 ^d "	"	"							
✓	George W. Foster	3 ^d "	"	"							
✓	Obadiah Morgan	4 th "	"	"							
✓	Thomas Comb	1 Corp'l	"	"							
✓	John Plaster	2 "	"	"							
✓	W ^m F. Berry	3 "	"	"							
✓	Alexander Trent	4 "	"	"							
15 ✓	John Erwin	Private	"	"							
22 ✓	John H. Houghton	"	"	"							
37 ✓	Thomas Pierce										
52 ✓	Samuel Tebb										
23 ✓	Henry Hadley										
12 ✓	Samuel Dutton										
38 ✓	Calvin Pierce										
53 ✓	Joseph Tibb										
28 ✓	W ^m Kirkpatrick										
16 ✓	Cyrus Elmore										
39 ✓	Elijah Pierce										
18 ✓	Lewis W. Farmer										

DOCUMENT 2 – NOTICE TO INTRODUCE AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE SAMUEL MUSICK TO BUILD A TOLL BRIDGE ACROSS SALT CREEK IN SANGAMON COUNTY

December 9, 1834

EXPLANATION

On August 4, 1834, New Salem surveyor Abraham Lincoln was one of four men elected to a two-year term as a state representative from Sangamon County. In this, his second attempt to serve in the General Assembly, Lincoln came in second in a field of thirteen candidates.

The state's Ninth General Assembly session began on December 1, 1834. On December 15, Lincoln introduced legislation to authorize Samuel Musick to build a toll bridge across Salt Creek in northern Sangamon County (the present boundary between Menard and Mason Counties). This document is the December 9 note to the Speaker of the Illinois House written by Lincoln stating his intent to introduce the legislation. The bill became the first legislation sponsored by Lincoln that was passed into law.

Musick was an early Sangamon County settler and had been appointed by the county commissioners on March 8, 1826 to operate a ferry across this stretch of the river. On January 7, 1831, the General Assembly passed a law giving him one year to build a toll bridge at this site. We can assume that Musick failed in this first endeavor and sought out Lincoln to give him another chance. Lincoln's bill stated that Musick or his heirs or assignees had one year to finish the project and that no other bridge could compete with his for a mile up or down the stream. The county would set the tolls and Musick had to keep the bridge in good repair or lose his franchise. He also could not interfere with the river traffic in any way. This toll bridge was probably completed because bills were introduced in the next few years to have a state road linked to "Musick's bridge at Salt Creek."

Throughout his political career, Lincoln was a great proponent of improving transportation systems and supported the use of rivers and later railroads in the movement of goods and people. On July 1, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act in order to create a rail system that would span the entire country.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Give several reasons why Lincoln would sponsor a bill like this.

In what ways has the building of roads and bridges changed from 1834 to today?

Why do you think Lincoln's bill prohibited other bridge companies from competing with Musick for a mile on both sides of his proposed bridge?

**DOCUMENT 2 – NOTICE TO INTRODUCE AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE SAMUEL
MUSICK TO BUILD A TOLL BRIDGE ACROSS SALT CREEK
IN SANGAMON COUNTY**

December 9, 1834

TRANSCRIPTION

Mr Speaker

I now give notice that Thursday
next, or some day thereafter I shall ask leave
to introduce a bill entitled an act to au=
thorize Samuel Musick to build a toll bridge
across Salt creek in Sangamon county—

DOCUMENT 3 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO LOCATE A STATE ROAD BETWEEN SPRINGFIELD AND GEORGE C. MILLER’S FERRY

February 2, 1835

EXPLANATION

Illinois in 1835 had a population of 269,974, forty percent of whom had arrived since 1830. It was still a frontier state in need of a transportation network. Abraham Lincoln spent a large part of his life helping to settle and develop central Illinois. As a young man on his father’s farm near Decatur, he plowed the prairie, felled trees and split rails for fences. In New Salem, he worked for a time as a surveyor, helping develop land for sale. As a state representative, he sponsored and voted for many pieces of legislation designed to improve Illinois’ infrastructure.

This document is similar to many bills Lincoln sponsored in the House. It called for the hiring of commissioners to lay out part of a state road in Sangamon County between Springfield, the largest city in Lincoln’s district, and George C. Miller’s ferry, about twelve miles northwest of New Salem. A year later, in March, Lincoln surveyed the area near the ferry and platted out the proposed town of Huron. He and several other Springfield investors bought lots in this area hoping that people would want to develop a community along a main road. However, the town was never built and in 1848 Lincoln and his friend Gersham Jayne sold their land near “Huron” for \$100.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What things determine whether or not a town prospers?

How can government help or hinder the prosperity or growth of a community?

Why do you think Lincoln purchased some of the land he surveyed?

**DOCUMENT 3 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO LOCATE A STATE ROAD BETWEEN
SPRINGFIELD AND GEORGE C. MILLER’S FERRY**

February 2, 1835

TRANSCRIPTION

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly— That Reuben Harrison, John Clary and Tandy James be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to view, mark and permanently locate so much of the state road, leading from Springfield in Sangamon county to Lewiston in Fulton county, as lies between Springfield and George G. Miller,s ferry on the Sangamo river

Sec 2. Said commissioners or a majority of them shall meet at the town of Springfield on the second Monday in March next or as soon thereafter as practicable and after being duly sworn by some officer authorized to administer oaths, shall proceed to perform the duties required of them by this act; avoiding as much as possible the injury of private property—

Sec 3 The said commissioners shall as soon thereafter as convenient, cause to be filed with the clerk of the county commissioner’s court of the county of Sangamon a report and complete map of said road– which report and map shall be preserved and shall form a part of the record of said court– Said road when so established shall be kept in repair as other state roads are—

Sec 4 The county commissioners court of Sangamon county shall allow to said commissioners, out of the county treasury; such compensation, as, to them shall seem just and reasonable—

Passed H.R. Feb 2. 1835
D. Prickett Clk. H.R.

DOCUMENT 4 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO RELOCATE A PART OF THE STATE ROAD LEADING FROM SPRINGFIELD TO LEWISTON

December 15, 1835

EXPLANATION

In the early 1830s, rivers constituted the major transportation network in Illinois, with railroads and canals still a thing of the future for the new state. Although located near the Sangamon River, Springfield, the largest town in Abraham Lincoln's legislative district, was essentially landlocked. As such, it needed good roads to connect it to the outside world.

This document, written in Lincoln's hand, calls for the relocating of a state road in Sangamon County. The road connected Springfield to Lewiston (actually Lewistown), which was located approximately sixty miles northwest of Springfield on the opposite side of the Illinois River.

Like today, the location of a major road or highway was important to an area's trade and commerce. As such, Lincoln was attempting to take care of his constituents with this bill. However, not everyone was pleased with how this bill laid out the road. Lincoln passed this bill during the ninth session of the General Assembly. He then received a petition from John Jones and other citizens living near where the road was to be relocated that expressed dissatisfaction with Lincoln's bill. In response, Lincoln introduced a new bill on the road's relocation during the Tenth General Assembly. That bill, which also passed, created a committee charged with the responsibility of deciding where the relocated road should go. The committee consisted of Jones and other signers of the petition.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why is the location of a road important to trade and commerce?

How were roads constructed and what materials were used in the 1830s?

Why would Lincoln revisit this issue, even after passing the bill?

**DOCUMENT 4 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO RELOCATE A PART OF THE STATE
ROAD LEADING FROM SPRINGFIELD TO LEWISTON**

December 15, 1835

TRANSCRIPTION

An act to relocate a part of the State Road leading from Springfield to Lewiston.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly: That Samuel Berry, James Pantier, and John Jones sen. be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to view, mark, and relocate so much of the State Road leading from Springfield to Lewiston as lies between the Southern boundary line of Township 19 North of Range 7 West, and the residence of the said John Jones sen=

The said commissioners shall meet at the house of Samuel Berry on the first monday of ~~the~~ May next, or some convenient day thereafter, and after being duly sworn, shall proceed to make said relocation, and shall make return thereof to the county commissioners court for Sangamon county at their next term.

The said county commissioners court, shall allow said commissioners such compensation as they may deem reasonable.

DOCUMENT 5 – AMENDMENT TO A BILL FOR AN ACT SUPPLEMENTAL TO AN ACT TO INCORPORATE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BANK OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

December 22, 1835

EXPLANATION

One of the most controversial issues in the early years of Illinois was the operation of a state bank. In 1821, the General Assembly created a state bank with four branches that could issue paper bank notes and make loans. At the time, the United States government did not print paper currency and coins minted by the federal government were scarce on the frontier. One of the purposes of the state bank was to solve the shortage of money that hindered the buying and selling of goods. However, because the state bank lent out more money than it took in from deposits, it went out of business in five years, leaving the state in great debt.

In 1834, the legislature created another state bank in order to solve the same frontier problems. Lincoln supported the idea of a state bank, in large part because the money lent out by the bank would fund internal improvements, something he felt the frontier state needed. This document is an amendment sponsored by Lincoln to the legislation creating the state bank. He thought the amendment was needed to make the bank more accountable for its actions. This amendment failed to pass and, like its predecessor, the second state bank also went bankrupt.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would coin money be scarce on the frontier?

How might early settlers obtain goods and services if they didn't have money?

What things did Lincoln want to require the state bank to do in order to keep its charter?

**DOCUMENT 5 – AMENDMENT TO A BILL FOR AN ACT SUPPLEMENTAL TO
AN ACT TO INCORPORATE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BANK
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

December 22, 1835

TRANSCRIPTION

Sec ~~5~~ The said corporation shall, at the next session of this General Assembly, and at each subsequent general session, during the existence of it's charter, report to the same, the amount of debts due from said corporation, the amount of debts ~~do~~ due to the same, the amount of specia in it's vaults, and and an ac= count of all lands ~~held~~ then owned by the same, and the amount for which such lands have been taken: and moreover, if said corporation shall, at any time neglect or refuse, to submit it's books, papers, ~~ac~~ and all and every thing necessary to a full and fair examination of it's affairs, to any person or persons appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose of making such examination, the said corpora tion shall forfeit it's charter.

DOCUMENT 6 – AN ACT TO PERMANENTLY LOCATE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

February 7, 1837

EXPLANATION

Although a Senate bill, this piece of legislation was written by Abraham Lincoln and helped mark one of the major accomplishments of his state legislative career. It was part of the numerous maneuvers by Sangamon County legislators to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

Upon the organization of Illinois as a territory in 1809, Kaskaskia, located on the Mississippi River in southwestern Illinois, became the capital city. It continued as the capital when Illinois became a state in 1818. Illinois before the Civil War was generally settled from south to north. This meant the population center of the state continuously moved northward. In 1820, the state moved the capital to the town of Vandalia, which was farther north than Kaskaskia. However, the statute moving the capital called for it to be reviewed after twenty years.

Lincoln and eight other legislators represented Sangamon County, then a much larger area than it is today. The average height of these two senators and seven representatives was six feet tall, earning the delegation the nickname the “Long Nine.” Going in to the tenth session of the Illinois General Assembly (1836-1838) Lincoln led this bipartisan delegation, which was determined to have the capital relocated to Springfield.

Stephen Douglas, who opposed moving the capital to Springfield, later said of the “Long Nine,” that “They used every exertion and made every sacrifice to secure the passage of the bill.” Indeed, they would later be accused of voting for building projects in other legislators’ districts in exchange for the votes for Springfield as state capital.

This document calls for a joint House-Senate meeting to vote on the location of a new capital. The joint House-Senate vote actually took place February 28, 1837. It took four ballots before legislators selected Springfield. Its nearest rivals were Alton, Vandalia and Jacksonville.

Springfield continues to serve as the state capital. Shortly after the vote, on April 15, 1837, Lincoln moved to Springfield and joined the law firm of John Todd Stuart.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Vandalia only have been made a temporary capital city?

Why would the moving of the state capital be a major achievement for Lincoln?

Why would Lincoln move to Springfield after this bill was passed?

**DOCUMENT 6 – AN ACT TO PERMANENTLY LOCATE THE SEAT OF
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS**

February 7, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

Sec 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly. That the two Houses of the General Assembly shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the 20th— day of February, 1837 at ten O'clock AM., and then and there proceed, by joint vote, to select some suitable point or place for the permanent location of the seat of Government for the State of Illinois.

Sec 2. Each member shall be at liberty to vote for whatever point or place he may choose, and no point or place shall be deemed selected, until it shall have received a majority of all the votes given.

Sec 3. In case no point or place shall receive a majority of all the votes given, on the first vote, the two Houses shall continue to vote until some point or place shall receive such majority; Provided, that this section shall not be construed to prevent an adjournment from day to day.

Sec 4. When any point or place shall have received a majority as aforesaid, such point or place, shall be and remain the permanent location of the Seat of Government for the State of Illinois, from and after the time for which it is fixed at Vandalia shall have expired. And the sum of thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting a State House and other needful buildings (if any) which shall be expended under the direction of commissioners to be appointed by the present General Assembly—

Sec 5. An act entitled “An act permanently to locate the Seat of Government of Illinois” approved February 5th 1833 is hereby repealed

Passed the Senate, Feby 7. 1837

J B Thomas, Jr

Sec'y Senate

DOCUMENT 7 – REPORT FROM A SELECT COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE DIVISION OF SANGAMON COUNTY

February 13, 1837

EXPLANATION

One of the most divisive issues for Lincoln during his state legislative career was the creation of new Illinois counties.

When Illinois entered the union in 1818, a majority of its population lived in the southern portion of the state. Illinois had fifteen counties, three of which, Madison, Bond and Crawford, stretched from almost as far south as St. Louis, Missouri north to the Wisconsin line. As Illinois' population increased, larger counties were divided into smaller counties, making it easier for settlers to get to a county seat of government. However, creating new counties out of existing ones could be controversial. Generally persons living close to an existing county seat opposed dividing a county, while those living furthest from a county seat supported creating a new county.

During the tenth session of the General Assembly, the legislature received petitions signed by Sangamon County residents both favoring and opposing the county's division. Lincoln called for the creation of a committee to review the petitions and became chairman when it was created. The committee also reviewed similar petitions relative to the division of nearby Montgomery and Shelby Counties.

Lincoln sought the creation of the committee in order to keep control over the issue. The committee's report, written by Lincoln, advocated that Sangamon County not be divided, due to the number of citizens who opposed it. The committee also opposed dividing Montgomery and Shelby Counties.

By 1839 the pressure to divide Sangamon County was too great and so under legislation largely written by Lincoln, Sangamon County was divided into four counties, now known as Sangamon, Logan, Menard and Christian.

The legislature created fifteen new counties in 1839, the most in one year in Illinois history. Only fifteen new counties have been created since. Today, Illinois has 102 counties, the last being Ford County, created in 1859.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would it be controversial to create new counties out of existing ones? Why was dividing Sangamon County a difficult issue for Lincoln?

Why did the counties need to be smaller?

What are the major issues in your county today?

**DOCUMENT 7 – REPORT FROM A SELECT COMMITTEE CONCERNING
THE DIVISION OF SANGAMON COUNTY**

February 13, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

The select committee to whom was refered the petition of sundry citizens of Sangamon county, praying the establishment of three new counties, principally from the teritory of the said county of Sangamon; and to whom was also refered the remonstrance of sundry citizens of the same county, against any division or dismemberment of the same, have had the same under consideration and report: That 1437 names are found on the petition, and 2213 on the remonstrance.

Upon this fact, the committee unanamously agree that the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted, and, therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject—

The same committee, to whom were also refered the petitions of sundry citizens of Montgomery & Shelby counties, praying the establishment of new counties, find that a majority of neither country has signed the said petitions, and they, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject—

DOCUMENT 8 – SUPREME COURT ROLL OF ATTORNEYS: 1817-1902

March 1, 1837

EXPLANATION

This page from the Illinois Supreme Court Roll of Attorneys: 1817-1902 shows that Abraham Lincoln met the requirements to practice law in Illinois.

Lincoln did not go to law school but, as was a common practice in the mid-nineteenth century, studied law under the supervision of an established attorney. Generally, the attorney with whom the student had studied informed the court that the person was ready to become a lawyer. In Lincoln's case, it was John Todd Stuart, his old friend from the Black Hawk War and from his early days in the legislature, who mentored Lincoln.

The first step was to get a certificate of good moral character, which Lincoln received from the Sangamon County Circuit Court on March 24, 1836. Lincoln then received his law license on September 9, 1836, after Stuart had vouched for him. On March 1, 1837, the clerk of the state Supreme Court entered Lincoln's name on the Roll of Attorneys, which was the final step of recognition to be a practicing attorney in Illinois. This document shows the portion of the Roll listing attorneys with last names beginning with "L" that were registered in Illinois between 1834 and 1846.

Lincoln was one of the most successful attorneys in pre-Civil War Illinois. He did not specialize in any particular field of the law but instead practiced general law. According to the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* (formerly the *Lincoln Legal Papers*), Lincoln was involved in more than 5,600 cases in his career.

Twice a year for much of his law career, Lincoln would "ride the circuit," traveling to various county courthouses, first by horseback or carriage, later by train, when the circuit court was in session. Lincoln's travels kept him away from home for weeks at a time but helped him in his political career, as he became well-known throughout central Illinois.

One month after Lincoln became a lawyer, he moved to Springfield. Living in the new state capital helped him become a leading attorney because it was the home of the state Supreme Court and the United States Circuit and District Courts. Lincoln argued several cases in front of these courts, with many of his arguments in front of the state Supreme Court setting legal precedents for the new state.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

How did being an attorney help Lincoln politically?

How do people become attorneys today and how does that differ from Lincoln's time?

Why would a certificate of good moral character be necessary for attorneys?

DOCUMENT 8 – SUPREME COURT ROLL OF ATTORNEYS: 1817-1902

March 1, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

DATE OF ENROLLMENT.	NAME.	COUNTY.	DATE OF LICENSE.
Feby 7" 1820	Lockwood Samuel D.		
Dec 13" 1834	Leland Lorenzo		Nov 10" 1834
" " "	Leland Cyrus		" " "
" 14" 1835	Leslie Myron		Dec 14" 1835
Feby 19" "	Linder Usher F.		" 11" "
Jany 4" 1837	Logan Richard		Oct 19" 1836
" 30" "	Lavinia William T. S.		Sept 27" "
* Mar 1" "	Lincoln Abraham		" 9" "
" 2" "	Leary Albert Green		Mar 1" "
Dec 4" 1838	Little Thomas J.		
Jany 15" 1839	Little Sidney H.		Jany 10" 1839
Feby 21" "	Lanphere George C.		Dec 3" 1838
" 25" "	Loop James L.		Feby 25" 1839
July 10" "	Lincoln William S.		Jany 1838
Oct 3" "	Lindsey J. B.		May 30" 1839
July 23" "	Lapsley John B.		July 22" "
Dec 11" "	Lott Peter		
" 16" "	Latimer Charles		Nov 19" 1839
Apl 27" 1840	Lazng George W.		Aug 27" 1836
June 10" "	Lee David S.		June 11" 1840
Dec 24" 1841	Leonard William H.		Dec 21" 1841
" 25" "	Little William E.		Oct 8" 1840
Mar 8" 1842	Leal Ebenezer M.		Mar 8" 1842
July 7" "	Leal James White		June 11" 1840
Dec 12" 1842	Leach Lucien B.		Nov 2" 1842
July 9" "	Lincoln John W.		July 9" "
June 26" 1843	Law Edmund		June 17" 1843
Aug 8" "	Leroy Gilbert		" 15" "
June 12" 1844	Little E. H.		May 12" 1844
July 8" "	Logan David		June 27" "
Dec 23" "	Lawler Michael K		Dec 21" "
Jany 28" 1845	Leavy Edward		Jany 18" 1845
Feby 6" "	Lemon Theodore		June 5" 1838
Apl 8" "	Larrabee Charles H.		Mar 24" 1845
Dec 12" 1844	Le Compte Thomas I.		Feby 14" 1844
" 4" 1845	Lacey Lionel P.		Oct 19" 1843
" 8" "	Leland Edwin S.		Jany 16" 1836
" 11" "	Lindsay John T.		June 4" 1845
" 16" "	Lawrence Charles B.		Mar 8" "
Apl 11" 1846	Lalumiere Stanislaus		Feby 12" "
Dec 26" "	Leech Francis M.		Nov 1" 1846

DOCUMENT 9 – 1837 HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRY ON SLAVERY

March 3, 1837

EXPLANATION

In what amounts to his first public enunciation on slavery, Abraham Lincoln joined with fellow Sangamon County legislator Dan Stone to denounce slavery.

By 1837, the abolition movement, which called for the ending of slavery, was starting in the North. Pro-slavery forces began to advocate that state legislatures in the North take a stand against abolitionists.

In January 1837, the General Assembly voted on a resolution that disapproved of abolitionists. The resolution also stated that the federal Constitution guaranteed the right to own slaves and that the federal government had no right to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. The state Senate passed the resolution unanimously. The House of Representatives passed it 77-6. Lincoln was one of the six voting against the resolution.

Six weeks later, Lincoln and Stone introduced into the record the attached protest. In the protest, they very clearly state that slavery is unjust. They temper that declaration by criticizing abolitionists as well. Lincoln and Stone also state that Congress has the right to eliminate slavery from the District of Columbia. The protest says nothing about eliminating slavery from the states, for despite stating that slavery was unjust, Lincoln and Stone agreed that it was constitutionally protected in the states where it existed.

The actions of Lincoln and the General Assembly during this debate demonstrate that in 1837 few in Illinois favored the abolition of slavery. Later in the year, Illinois abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy was murdered by a pro-slavery mob in Alton, again demonstrating that Illinois was not yet ready to embrace freeing the slaves in the South.

According to Paul Simon in his book *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness*, Lincoln would refer to his protest as defining his position on slavery, both in 1837 and in 1860. As president, Lincoln signed legislation passed by Congress that did indeed free the slaves in the District of Columbia. He also went further than his 1837 protest, authoring the Emancipation Proclamation that freed slaves in southern states in rebellion and championing the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

If Lincoln feels slavery is unjust, why doesn't he call for its abolition?

Does Lincoln believe that Congress has the right to interfere with slavery in the states?

How were Lincoln's actions as president consistent with his 1837 protest and how were they different?

DOCUMENT 9 – 1837 HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRY ON SLAVERY

March 3, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

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Journal &c. Continued

the words “and other purposes”—

Ordered that the title of the bill be as amended, that the Clerk inform the Senate thereof, and ask their concurrence to the amendment of the House to said bill and the title thereof—

The following protest was presented to the House which was read and ordered to be spread on the Journals,—namely,—

Resolutions upon the Subject of Domestic Slavery having passed both branches of the General Assembly at its present Session. The undersigned hereby protest against the passage of the Same.

They believe that the Institution of Slavery is founded both in Injustice and bad policy; but that the promulgation of Abolition Doctrines tends rather to Increase than to abate its evils.

They believe the Congress of the United States has no power, under the Constitution to Interfere with the institution of Slavery in the different States.

They believe that the Congress of the United States has the power to under the Constitution to abolish Slavery in the district of Columbia; but that that power ought not to be exercised unless at the request of the people of said district.

The difference between these opinions and those contained in the said Resolutions, is their reasons for entering this protest”.—

Dan Stone.

A. Lincoln.

Representatives from the County of Sangamon.

Message from the Council of Revision by M^r. Owing their Secretary.

M^r. Speaker,

The bills entitled,

“An act to Incorporate the Colhoun Coal and Mining Compay”

“An act for the formation of Michigan County”

“An act laying out certain State Roads”.

“An act to Incorporate the Chippawa Dry dock Company”

“An act to Incorporate the Peoria Hotel Compay,”--

Have been approved of by the Council of Revision

And he withdrew.

M^r. Moore of S^tClair from the Committee on Finance to which was refered the bill from the Senate entitled,

DOCUMENT 10 – LINCOLN’S SALARY WARRANT NO. 256 FOR SERVICE AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE

July 22, 1837

EXPLANATION

A pay warrant was the equivalent of a modern day paycheck. The state treasurer and state auditor signed the preprinted warrant, which in this case was made out to Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln had to pick up the warrant, sign a receipt for it, and then take it to a bank to be cashed. Eventually the cashed warrant, endorsed on the backside by the payee, was returned to the state and kept in its official records.

The Tenth General Assembly started in December 1836 and was Lincoln’s second term as a state representative. During the regular session, Lincoln joined with most other state legislators in approving legislation known as internal improvements. Illinois legislators felt the state’s population growth and economic development were being hindered by a lack of infrastructure, specifically roads, canals, bridges and railroads. With the nation’s economy booming, they passed legislation committing the state to building such infrastructure. However, in May 1837 a national bank panic started that quickly devalued Illinois bank notes and began a five-year depression. Far from being able to build infrastructure improvements, Illinois was now greatly in debt.

Only a few miles of railroad track were ever built under the internal improvements legislation and it wouldn’t be until 1881 that Illinois would pay off the last of its debts from this program. In response to the debt, Governor Joseph Duncan called a special session of the General Assembly to meet to resolve the state’s new financial crisis. This warrant is for service during that special session, which met from July 10 to July 22, 1837.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What are “internal improvements” and why would Illinois need them in 1837?

In what ways does the state now pay for improvements to roads and bridges?

Why was it important for the state to keep the cashed pay warrant?

DOCUMENT 10 – LINCOLN’S SALARY WARRANT NO. 256 FOR SERVICE
AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE

July 22, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

AUDITOR’S OFFICE ILLINOIS, Vandalia, *July 22 1837*

\$96 00/100

No. 256

CASHIER of the *Vandalia Branch* STATE BANK
of Illinois, Pay to *Abraham Lincoln -----*

or order, the sum of *Ninety six* dollars and cents,

it being in *full* for his services as a Member of the General Assembly, Special Session, *1837*

[Countersigned and Registered.]

John D Whiteside Treasurer.

Levi Davis
Auditor of Public Accounts

[W. WALTERS, STATE PRINTER]

A. Lincoln

DOCUMENT 11 – BOND FOR CHARLES R. MATHENY

August 15, 1837

EXPLANATION

On April 15, 1837, Abraham Lincoln moved from New Salem to Springfield. Although Springfield only incorporated as a town on March 29, 1832 and would not incorporate as a city until February 3, 1840, it was the Sangamon County seat and the state legislature had just voted to make it the state capital.

Only four months after moving to Springfield, Lincoln joined four prominent Sangamon County residents in signing this bond for Charles R. Matheny, who had been elected as clerk of the Sangamon County Commissioners Court. Most public officials were required to post bond before serving in office. The bond helped ensure that if they committed a crime in office or failed to perform their duties properly, they would be financially penalized. By signing the bond, Lincoln and the others agreed to pay \$1,000 if Matheny was a dishonest public official. Because Matheny was a well-known member of the community, the signers of the bond had little to fear that it would be needed.

The signers represent a bipartisan group of individuals. Matheny had settled in Sangamon County in 1821 and had served in numerous county government positions. From 1832 until his death in 1839, he served as the first president of the Springfield Board of Trustees.

William Butler was a close friend of Stephen T. Logan and was serving as clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court when he signed the bond. He later became state treasurer and worked as a manager for Lincoln at the 1860 Republican Presidential Convention.

Robert Allen was a Democrat whose criticism of Lincoln during the latter's 1836 race for state representative caused Lincoln to write him a very bitter note. Still, in 1845, Lincoln would recommend Allen for the position of U. S. marshal.

A. G. Herndon was also a Democrat and was the father of Lincoln's future law partner. Herndon served in the General Assembly with Lincoln. He and Lincoln worked together as part of the "Long Nine" who helped move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would a public official need to post bond to hold an office?

What does it say about Lincoln's standing in the community that he signed the bond with leading local residents?

Could the signing of the bond have helped Lincoln politically? How?

DOCUMENT 11 – BOND FOR CHARLES R. MATHENY

August 15, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

Know all men by these presents, that we
Charles R. Matheny, William Butler, A. Lincoln
Robert Allen and A. G. Herndon
are held and firmly bound unto the County Com=
missioners, of the County of Sangamon, and State
of Illinois, for the use of any person or persons
injured, or for the use of the said County if injur=
ed, in the penal sum of One Thousand Dollars
the payment of which will and truly to be made
we bind ourselves, our heirs and assigns. Jointly
severally and firmly by these presents, signed
sealed, and dated this 15th day of August
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight
Hundred and Thirty seven.

The Condition of the above obligation is such
that whereas the above bounden Charles R.
Matheny has been duly elected Clerk of the
said County Commissioners Court—

Now if he the said Charles R Matheny
shall faithfully perform the duties of said
office as required by law then the above
obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force
& effect—

C. R. Matheny (seal)

William Butler (seal)

A. Lincoln (seal)

Robert Allen (seal)

A. G. Herndon (seal)

DOCUMENT 12 – CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION OF LINCOLN’S ELECTION TO THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 28, 1838

EXPLANATION

On August 6, 1838, the 29-year-old Lincoln was elected to his third term as a state representative. This document served as a certification of his election. It was signed by Charles Matheny, one of the early settlers of Springfield and the first president of its board of trustees.

Lincoln was one of seventeen candidates who ran for the Illinois House from Sangamon County. The top seven candidates were elected. Six of the elected legislators were Whigs and one was a Democrat. Lincoln received the most votes of the seventeen candidates and he felt so confident that he would be reelected that he spent much of his time campaigning for his law partner, John Todd Stuart, who was running for Congress. Stuart narrowly defeated Lincoln’s future rival, Stephen Douglas, in that race.

Lincoln’s third term would be his last in Vandalia, as the previous legislature had voted to move the state capital to Springfield. He was the leader of the Whig Party of the House and was their choice for the Speaker of the House but he lost to the Democratic candidate, William L. D. Ewing, who had served for seventeen days as Illinois’ fifth governor.

Despite this setback Lincoln had a very busy session. It was during this term that he was at the height of his influence as a state legislator. Along with being the Whig Party leader, he served on fourteen committees, including the powerful Finance Committee and the Committee on Counties. Although it was becoming apparent that the internal improvements plan passed the previous session was bankrupting the state, the legislature refused to curtail the program. Lincoln did address one controversial issue during the session: writing and passing legislation that divided Sangamon County into four separate counties.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would a party leader work harder for another candidate than himself?

Why do you think the legislature refused to curtail the internal improvements program despite the state’s indebtedness?

What might be some reasons why state elections in 1838 were held in August and not November?

**DOCUMENT 12 – CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION OF LINCOLN’S
ELECTION TO THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

August 28, 1838

TRANSCRIPTION

State of Illinois }
Sangamon County } ss

I Charles R Matheny clerk of the County
Commissioners Court in and for Said County do hereby certify that
Abraham Lincoln was duly Elected Representative to the
General assembly of the State of Illinois from the County of
Sangamon at the general Election in August AD 1838
as appears from the Returns filed in My Office

Given under my hand and Seal of Office
at Springfield in Said County this 28th
day of August In the year of our Lord
One thousand Eighth hundred & thirty Eight

C. R. Matheny Clk CCCrt

DOCUMENT 13 – ENDORSEMENT OF ANTRIM CAMPBELL AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

September 13, 1838

EXPLANATION

Illinois' population tripled between 1830 and 1840, going from just over 150,000 residents to slightly more than 450,000 residents. The rapidly growing state provided plenty of opportunity and a newcomer with talent could move ahead quickly. Such was the case of Antrim Campbell and his brother, David.

The Campbell brothers came to Sangamon County in 1837 and opened up a law practice. David Campbell was a Democrat and Antrim was a member of the Whig Party. They quickly became local civic leaders. In 1839 the state legislature selected David Campbell as state's attorney for the newly created Eighth Judicial Circuit. By 1842 he was mayor of Springfield. He later served as Illinois attorney general and also rode the circuit with Lincoln.

Antrim Campbell had only been practicing law in Springfield for eight months when some of the leading members of the community signed this petition asking that Governor Joseph Duncan appoint him as a district attorney, which the petition referred to as prosecuting attorney. Duncan had been elected governor as a Democrat but switched to the Whig Party before taking office.

All of the persons signing the petition were attorneys. Among them were John Todd Stuart and Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's first two law partners. Also signing it was Edward Baker, a state senator and future congressman; Ninian Edwards, a state representative and son of Illinois' third governor; Samuel Treat, an attorney and future judge; Josephus Hewett, the resigning prosecuting attorney; and Cyrus Walker, a prominent Whig from McDonough County who in 1840 would join Lincoln as a candidate for presidential elector for Whig William Henry Harrison.

Despite the strong list of supporters, Duncan did not appoint Campbell to the position.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why could a man with talent advance quickly in Illinois in the 1830s?

Was this a good list of endorsers? Why?

In what ways has getting a government job changed since Lincoln's time? In what ways is it still the same?

DOCUMENT 13 – ENDORSEMENT OF ANTRIM CAMPBELL AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

September 13, 1838

TRANSCRIPTION

We the undersigned do hereby certify that Antrim Campbell has been engaged in the practice of the Law in Springfield for eight months last past, and from our knowledge of his character do believe him in every respect worthy of confidence and esteem, And we do also cheerfully recommend him to his Excellency Joseph Duncan Governor of the State of Illinois as fully qualified and competent to fulfill the duties of Prosecuting Attorney and would be much pleased to see him get the appointment to said office

Jai Stephen T. Logan
E. D. Baker.
John T. Stuart
Ninian W. Edwards
Saml. H. Treat
J. Hewett
A Lincoln
Cyrus Walker

Springfield, Sept^r. 13th 1838

Hon J. Duncan—

Sir permit me to resign into your hands the trust confided to me by your Excellency as States Att’y for the First Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois—
To the best of my ability I have endeavored to discharge its duties during the brief term of my official existence. I shall ask that my resignation may not take effect until the 30 inst – until which time the duties will be discharged by a friend.
With my thanks for the confidence evinced by my appointment, and my most ardent wishes for your

future happiness I Remain
Sir, Your Much Obliged and
Most Devoted Friend and
Obedient Servant
J. Hewitt

Hon. Joseph Duncan
Governor of the
State of Illinois.—
Jacksonville

Filed 15th Sept 1838
A. P. Field
SecState

1838. Sept 13
Resignation of
Josephus Hewitt

DOCUMENT 14 – A BILL FOR AN ACT LIMITING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND CONSTABLES

December 13, 1838

EXPLANATION

This is a bill that demonstrates “inside politics” in the state legislature. This document is a bill written by Lincoln but introduced by another legislator, Representative James T. Cunningham, a farmer from Coles County.

Justices of the peace were not full judges and often did not have a legal background. They ruled on minor cases, settled small disputes or referred cases to a higher court. Justices provided quick justice at a time when travel made it difficult for a circuit court, with judges, lawyers, defendants, plaintiffs, and witnesses, to meet in a small county. This bill limits the authority of justices and also of constables, who were law enforcement officials who worked for the justices of the peace.

It is not known if Lincoln wrote the bill and gave it to Cunningham to introduce in the House or if Cunningham had the idea for the bill and asked Lincoln to draft it to make it better.

According to Paul Simon in his book *Lincoln's Preparation For Greatness*, the issue of limiting the authority of justices of the peace was one that interested Lincoln throughout his political career. One of the bills Lincoln introduced in his first session limited the authority of justices of the peace. In that session, he helped defeat a bill that would have expanded the powers of the justices. Simon speculates that Lincoln's financial difficulties in New Salem, which resulted in the sale of some of his personal property, may have soured him on some of the powers of justices of the peace.

Lincoln may have wanted this legislation but thought it would go better with a different sponsor. Cunningham, who had served several years as a justice of the peace, would have brought credibility to the issue that Lincoln did not have. If the bill was Cunningham's idea, he may have gone to Lincoln for ideas on how to improve it and on how to better draft it.

Whatever the strategy, the legislature failed to pass the bill. A similar bill introduced in the next session also failed.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What were the possible reasons Lincoln wrote this bill but did not introduce it himself?

Why would Representative Cunningham bring “credibility” to this bill?

Why would justices of the peace handle minor cases, rather than full judges?

DOCUMENT 14 – A BILL FOR AN ACT LIMITING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
AND CONSTABLES

December 13, 1838

TRANSCRIPTION

A bill for an act limiting Justices of the Peace
and Constables to their several Districts
respectively—

Sec. 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State
of Illinois represented in the General Assembly,
that hereafter it shall not be lawful for
any Justice of the Peace to issue any civil process
~~against~~ to be served on any person in a different
District from that in which such Justice shall
reside, except in cases where the cause of action
on which process is issued shall have accrued
in the District where such Justice shall reside
and the person against whom it shall issue shall
reside in a different one—

Sec: 2. That hereafter no constable shall serve any
civil process, issued by a Justice of the Peace unless
the same shall have been issued by a Justice re=
siding in the same district with such constable—

— ~~Strike out all after the enacting clause~~
~~and insert the following~~ —

— ~~That hereafter it shall not be lawful for~~
~~any Justice of the peace to issue any civil process~~
~~upon any promissory notes or ^{any} other instrument in~~
~~writing for the payment of money property or other~~
~~valuable thing, to be served upon any person~~
~~residing without the limits of his Justice district~~

Strike out all after the enacting clause and
insert the following

DOCUMENT 15 – HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION CONCERNING PURCHASE OF UNSOLD FEDERAL LANDS

January 17, 1839

EXPLANATION

For the Eleventh General Assembly, Lincoln served on the powerful House Finance Committee, which oversaw the state's financial well-being. On January 17, 1839 he introduced this resolution on behalf of the committee. It called for the federal government to sell its land holdings in Illinois to the state. Lincoln felt this would give the state control over its own land and provide state government with revenue when it later sold the land to individuals.

Illinois had been a state for twenty years but Lincoln estimated the federal government controlled some twenty million acres within its borders. That represented more than fifty-five percent of the state's land. In remarks about the resolution, Lincoln said state control over the land would help with the failing internal improvements program by allowing the state to funnel resources to areas where the improvements were needed.

Lincoln also felt the land could provide Illinois with a new source of revenue. The resolution called for buying the land at 25¢ an acre for a total cost of \$5 million. Lincoln hoped the state could sell the land to individuals for \$1.25 an acre. The state was already deeply in debt because of the internal improvements plans but Lincoln felt the state had gone too far to stop those plans. While this proposal would have put the state an additional \$5 million in debt, Lincoln felt the large number of settlers looking to buy land would allow the state to quickly repay the loan and then repay some of the debts incurred by the internal improvements plan.

Although the General Assembly passed the resolution, the federal government ignored it. Illinois remained in debt from the internal improvements plan until 1881.

It is interesting to note that the resolution “requested” that Illinois’ congressmen work for the passage of the bill and “instructed” Illinois’ two senators to work for it. Before 1913, United States senators were not elected by direct vote of the people. Instead, the legislature selected who would serve. As such, state legislators felt that U. S. senators worked for the legislature and could be “instructed” by it on how to vote. The people elected U. S. congressmen and so the legislature “requested” their help.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why did the state of Illinois need money in the late 1830s?

How would state control over the land help the internal improvements program?

Why do you think the federal government ignored this resolution?

**DOCUMENT 15 – HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION CONCERNING PURCHASE
OF UNSOLD FEDERAL LANDS**

January 17, 1839

TRANSCRIPTION

Resolved by the General Assembly of the state of Illinois that the said State propose to purchase of the government of the United States, all the lands not sold or otherwise disposed of, within the limits of said State, at the rate of twenty five cents per acre, to be paid (unless otherwise agreed upon) at such time, as the said government of the United States, shall deliver over to the authorities of the ^{said} State of Illinois, all the plats, Field Notes &c&c, pertaining to the surveys of said lands—

Resolved, that the faith of the said State of Illinois is hereby irrevocably pledged, to carry into effect the foregoing proposal, if the government of the United States shall accept the same within two years from the passage hereof—

Resolved, that our Senators in Congress be instructed and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure the passage of a law or resolution of Congress ~~of Congress~~ accepting the foregoing proposal—

Resolved that the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution, to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress—

DOCUMENT 16 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE BONDS OF MATRIMONY BETWEEN NATHANIEL B. MARTIN AND SARAH MARTIN HIS WIFE

January 1840

EXPLANATION

From the beginning of statehood in 1818, divorces could be granted by the courts or by the state legislature. Divorce laws were very strict, so persons would petition the legislature if their divorce request did not meet the legal criteria. The legislature eventually grew tired of ruling on divorces and so the number of divorce petitions it accepted declined after the 1820s. In fact, this was a point of disagreement between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, his future rival. Douglas felt that only the courts should handle divorces while Lincoln favored the idea of allowing the legislature to grant them.

The General Assembly passed its last divorce bill in 1837 and by 1840 it had stopped taking up matters of divorce. According to Paul Simon in his book *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness*, Lincoln's action on behalf of Sarah Martin represented the one exception to the legislature's new policy.

On January 16, 1840, Lincoln introduced a petition to the General Assembly that he had received from Sarah Martin, who was asking for a divorce from her second husband, Nathaniel Martin. Mrs. Martin, a widow with two young children, had married Martin, only to be abandoned by him six days later. In her petition, she said she didn't want to wait the two years the courts required of an absence before they would grant a divorce because of potential debts her husband might incur for which she would be liable.

Lincoln introduced her petition in the House and requested a committee be appointed to review it. On January 25, the committee, with Lincoln as its chair, presented the attached bill that approved a divorce. The bill passed the House but failed to pass the Senate.

In 1848, Illinois enacted a new constitution that expressly prohibited the General Assembly from granting divorces. Although it had received hundreds of petitions requesting divorces, the General Assembly only had approved approximately 43 between 1818 and 1848.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What would the benefits of the legislature granting a divorce be to the divorcees?

What was the special circumstance Sarah Martin cited as needing to go to the legislature, rather than the courts, for her divorce?

What are some reasons why divorces should be granted under a statewide law instead of by the General Assembly?

**DOCUMENT 16 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE BONDS OF
MATRIMONY BETWEEN NATHANIEL B. MARTIN AND
SARAH MARTIN HIS WIFE**

January 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

A bill for an act to dissolve the bonds
of matrimony between Nathaniel B. Martin, and
Sarah Martin his wife—

Be it enacted by the people of the
state of Illinois represented in the Gen=
eral Assembly: That the bonds of matrim=
ony existing between Nathaniel B. Martin and
Sarah Martin, his wife, be, and they are
hereby forever dissolved—

DOCUMENT 17 – AMENDMENT TO A BILL FOR AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC REVENUE

January 2, 1840

EXPLANATION

Born just twenty-six years after the end of the Revolutionary War, Abraham Lincoln had a lifelong respect for the generation that fought that war. Many of his most famous speeches, including the Lyceum Address of 1838, the Cooper Union Speech, his farewell address to Springfield, and the Gettysburg Address, make mention of the Revolutionary generation. As an attorney, Lincoln once defended the widow of a Revolutionary War soldier and brought to the case an added zeal.

After the Revolution, the federal government voted to give veterans a small pension for their service and put the War Department in charge of disbursing the funds. This document, written by Lincoln, is an amendment to a revenue bill. Its purpose is to grant tax relief to pensioners of the Revolutionary War who would be taxed by the state if they made any interest income from their pension allotment. Originally written as a stand-alone bill, Lincoln instead chose to take it and make it an amendment to a revenue bill. As such, the top of the piece of paper, which would have had the phrase “A bill for an...” was torn off of the document. This amendment was adopted and added to the revenue bill but the bill itself failed to make it out of the House.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Lincoln feel such an attachment to Revolutionary War pensioners?

What do you think was the age range of Revolutionary War pensioners in Illinois in 1840?

In addition to pensions, what other benefits has the U.S. government awarded to military veterans?

**DOCUMENT 17 – AMENDMENT TO A BILL FOR AN ACT CONCERNING
PUBLIC REVENUE**

January 2, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

That hereafter all Revolutionary pensioners within this state, shall be permitted to loan all or any part of the money which they may have acquired exclusively by means of their pensions, without paying any tax whatever, therefor —

The assessors of the several counties within this state, shall take this production of the regular pension Certificate from the War office of the United States, as sufficient evidence that the person therein shown to be a Revolutionary pensioner is a Revolutionary pensioner; and shall then take the statement upon honor of such pensioner, as sufficient evidence of the facts whether he has any money loaned other than that acquired by means of his pension, and if so, how much, and on all other questions deemed necessary and proper under this act—

DOCUMENT 18 – A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A HOUSE FOR THE USE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 24, 1840

EXPLANATION

Lincoln wrote and introduced this bill to buy a house for the governor in 1840. Lincoln had been largely responsible for moving the state capital to Springfield and he was a large hometown booster. A permanent house for the governor would help insure that the seat of state government would permanently stay in Springfield.

According to the book *Old Illinois Houses*, shortly after the capital moved to Springfield the state had purchased a building at the corner of Eighth and Market (now Capitol) Streets for use as the governor's home. That building was located just one block north of the future home of Lincoln. The book *At Home with Illinois Governors* described the house as a "cramped structure that once housed the offices of the Illinois Board of Public Works."

Lincoln undoubtedly pictured something more grandiose for the governor. His bill called for spending \$8,000, not an inconsiderable amount in 1840, to purchase a house and lot. Lincoln bought his middle class home in 1844 for \$1,500. On the floor of the House of Representatives, there was an attempt to amend Lincoln's bill to call for spending \$10,000. Neither that amendment, nor Lincoln's original bill, passed the House.

It was not until 1853 that the General Assembly took action on the governor's mansion. That year, it voted to appropriate \$15,000 to build a mansion in Springfield for the governor. Two years later, it appropriated another \$16,000 for this purpose. The total of \$31,000 spent for the mansion would be the equivalent of approximately \$700,000 in today's dollars.

The new mansion opened in 1856 with Democrat Joel Matteson becoming the first Illinois governor to live there. Still used today, the mansion is the third oldest, continuously-used governor's mansion in the nation. After 1857, when Republican Governor William Bissell was inaugurated, Lincoln became a frequent visitor to the mansion, which was located three blocks from his home.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Lincoln want to spend money for a mansion for the Governor?

Why was it felt that the governor's house should be a mansion?

What might be some reasons that spending on the mansion was delayed until 1853?

**DOCUMENT 18 – A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF
A HOUSE FOR THE USE OF THE GOVERNOR**

January 24, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

A bill for an act authorizing the purchase
of a house for the use of the Governor.

Sec: 1st Be it enacted by the People of
the state of Illinois represented in the
General Assembly. That the Auditor
of Public Accounts be and he is hereby
authorized to purchase a suitable house
and lot, within the town of Springfield,
for a residence for the Governor of the
state, Provided the same shall not
cost more than eight thousand dollars.

Sec: 2nd The Auditor shall issue his warrant
on the Treasury for the amount agreed on
by him for said purchase, in favour of
the person or persons of whom said purchase
shall have been made—

Sec: 3rd Before issuing his warrant as afore=
said, ~~The~~ the Auditor shall particularly
enquire into and ascertain that a clear and
unencumbered title to the house and lot so
purchased can be made; and moreover shall
actually take a conveyance of such title
to the Governor of the state of Illinois for
the use of the People of said state—

Sec: 4th Upon the completion of such purchase
and conveyance, the Auditor shall notify
the Governor thereof; and after one month
subsequent to said notice, no allowance
for house rent, or traveling expenses shall
be made to the Governor—

DOCUMENT 19 – CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION OF LINCOLN’S ELECTION TO THE TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

November 18, 1840

EXPLANATION

On August 3, 1840, Abraham Lincoln was elected to his fourth and final term in the Illinois legislature. Since all elections are organized and supervised by local government officials, the results must be verified locally and then sent to the state for recording. This document served as certification of his election.

By 1840 Lincoln was the leader of the Whig Party in Illinois. As such, he spent most of the campaign traveling around the state on behalf of William Henry Harrison, the Whig candidate for president. Harrison would win the White House but he lost in Illinois. Lincoln had run as one of five presidential electors pledged to Harrison, so he also lost. Lincoln limited how much he campaigned for his own reelection as legislator. He won his race but came in last among the winners.

The Twelfth General Assembly actually convened with a special session that began on November 23. The purpose of the special session was to address the ever-growing internal improvements debt, which according to Governor Thomas Carlin had reached more than \$13 million at a time when state government operated on around \$25,000 every two years. The special session basically repealed the Internal Improvements Act, which stopped future projects but still left the state deep in debt.

As in 1838, Lincoln again ran for Speaker of the House but again lost to former Governor William L. D. Ewing. During his final term in the General Assembly, Lincoln appears to have lost some interest in legislative affairs. His law practice was expanding and he was courting Mary Todd, whom he married on November 4, 1842. He also was in ill health for much of the session, with some saying it was due to a brief estrangement from Mary Todd.

Major legislation passed during the session included a bill to redistrict the state’s legislative districts, a bill to reorganize and expand the state Supreme Court, and a bill assisting the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) by incorporating the town of Nauvoo in western Illinois.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why did Lincoln do so poorly in his reelection campaign?

What reasons can you suggest for Lincoln not wanting to serve in the legislature after 1841?

What are presidential electors?

**DOCUMENT 19 – CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION OF LINCOLN'S
ELECTION TO THE TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

November 18, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

State of Illinois

Sangamon County I Noah W Matheny Clerk of the

County Commissioners Court of Sangamon County do hereby

certify that Abraham Lincoln Esqr. was Elected Repre=

=sentative to the Legislature of the State of Illinois from

the County of Sangamon at the General Election held the

first monday in August AD 1840 as appears from the

Election returns on file in my office

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto

subscribed my name and affixed the

seal of said Court at Springfield this

18th November AD 1840

N W Matheny Clerk

_____"____"

DOCUMENT 20 – RESOLUTION NOTIFYING SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS ORGANIZED

November 24, 1840

EXPLANATION

The twelfth session of the Illinois House met for the first time on November 23, 1840. The next day, the House elected its officers. Former Illinois Governor William L. D. Ewing, a Democrat from Vandalia, defeated Abraham Lincoln for Speaker, 46 to 36. It was the second time Ewing had defeated Lincoln for Speaker. Immediately following the vote, in a gracious move from the leader of the Whig Party, Lincoln wrote and moved for passage of this resolution, informing the Senate that the House had organized and elected its officers.

It can be argued that the highlight of Ewing's political career was defeating Lincoln twice for Speaker. However, he had one of the more unusual political careers in Illinois history.

A lawyer by training, Ewing came to Illinois around 1818. He was appointed to various governmental positions and also served in the Black Hawk War. In 1826 and 1828 he was appointed clerk of the Illinois House. In 1830 he ran for state representative and not only won the election but was made Speaker of the House. Two years later he won office as state senator. He became Speaker *pro tempore* of the Senate and, as the highest-ranking senator, he became acting Lt. Governor following the resignation of Zadok Casey. When Governor John Reynolds resigned to enter Congress, Ewing became the state's fifth governor. He served for the last seventeen days of Reynolds' term and then went back to the state Senate.

In 1835, Abraham Lincoln worked for Ewing's selection as United States senator to fill out the term of Elias Kent Kane, who had died. Lincoln supported Ewing because he knew a Whig couldn't win and he wanted a weak Democrat who could be beaten when the term expired. Sure enough, two years later Ewing lost the Senate seat but he lost it to another Democrat.

Following his defeat for the U. S. Senate, Ewing served two more terms in the Illinois House. Both terms he was selected as Speaker, defeating Lincoln. This meant that in his four terms in the Illinois General Assembly, three in the House and one in the Senate, he was always selected as the leader of his chamber. After his last term in the House, he was again appointed clerk of the House. He later was appointed state auditor, the job he was holding when he died in 1846.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Lincoln work to have Ewing elected as United States senator?

Why do you think that once a person is elected to office, they tend to be reelected several times, even for other offices? Can you give other examples of this happening?

Why do you think Ewing was always selected as leader of his chamber during his four terms in the General Assembly?

**DOCUMENT 20 – RESOLUTION NOTIFYING SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES IS ORGANIZED**

November 24, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

Resolved that the clerk of this House
inform the Senate, that they have met,
elected William Lee D. Ewing their Speaker,
John Calhoun their Principal clerk, George
Davis, their assistant clerk, Robert Smith
Engrossing and Erolling clerk, W. C Murphy
Principal Doorkeeper, & Benjamin Roberts
assistant Doorkeeper, and are now
ready to proceed to Legislative bussiness.

DOCUMENT 21 – RESOLUTION ON TEACHERS’ EXAMINATIONS

December 2, 1840

EXPLANATION

Abraham Lincoln once said that he had at best attended one year of school in his life. He started attending school as a child in Kentucky and attended approximately five schools in Kentucky and Indiana by the age of fifteen.

In the book *Lincoln* by David Donald, the author notes that Lincoln was scornful of the types of schools he attended, stating, “No qualifications were ever required of a teacher, beyond readin’, writin’, and cipherin’ to the Rule of Three.”

Perhaps it was with his own education in mind that Lincoln sponsored the attached document, which calls for the Committee on Education to look into requiring teachers to pass a qualifying examination before being allowed to teach in a public school.

Taking Lincoln’s resolution to heart, the General Assembly that year passed legislation requiring local school authorities to examine any person who proposed to teach in their area. The legislation said no public school teacher was to be paid without first being examined by and receiving a certificate of qualification from the local school authority. The legislation did not specify what the examination was to consist of, giving a lot of flexibility to the local authorities.

In 1825 Illinois passed the Free School Law that allowed counties to create school districts and levy taxes to support them. The state promised only a very small amount of money toward supporting education at that time. It wasn’t until 1855 that the state mandated a free public school system and 1883 when it became compulsory for children ages eight through fourteen to attend school.

Today, schoolteachers must be college graduates and undergo rigorous examination and take continuous coursework as part of their profession.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Lincoln have an interest in making sure teachers were qualified?

What are some reasons that not everyone in Lincoln’s time favored tax-supported public schools and compulsory student attendance?

Before 1940, most children who lived in rural areas attended one-room schools. How did these differ from your elementary school?

DOCUMENT 21 – RESOLUTION ON TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS

December 2, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

Resolved, that the Committee on Education
be instructed to enquire into the expediency of
providing by law for the examination, as to their quali=
fications of persons offering themselves as School-teachers
and that no teacher shall receive any part of
Public
the ^ School Funds, who shall not have success=
fully passed such examination; and that they
report by Bill or otherwise—

DOCUMENT 22 – A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN DEBTORS OF THE STATE TO DISCHARGE THEIR INDEBTEDNESS IN ILLINOIS INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT SCRIP

January 27, 1841

EXPLANATION

In the book *Lincoln's Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative Years*, historian Paul Simon is extremely critical of this bill, which Lincoln supported as chairman of the House Committee on Finance.

As part of the inducement to move the capital from Vandalia to Springfield, the citizens of Springfield pledged to raise \$50,000 for the construction of a new capitol building. Lincoln's bill would have allowed that money to be paid in internal improvements scrip, which was similar to bonds that the state issued and distributed to finance the internal improvements plan. The value of scrip was tied to the success of the internal improvements plan and the financial well-being of the state.

However, by 1841 the internal improvements plan was a huge failure that had resulted in deep debt for the state. Indeed, scrip was selling well-under its face value. To allow the Springfield residents to pay in scrip meant that they were actually paying back much less than the \$50,000 they had committed to the state. As Simon noted, for the state to be paid in scrip rather than real money set a dangerous precedent that it simply could not afford.

For Lincoln, however, the bill did many things. It helped out his constituents. Lincoln had already supported measures that would have relieved Springfield's citizens from their pledge, although those measures failed to pass the House. This bill also would have led to a quicker payment on the building of the capitol.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What is scrip?

Why was the value of scrip so low?

Give instances when helping one's constituents hurts the rest of the state.

DOCUMENT 22 – A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN DEBTORS
OF THE STATE TO DISCHARGE THEIR INDEBTEDNESS
IN ILLINOIS INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT SCRIP

January 27, 1841

TRANSCRIPTION

An act authorizing certain Debtors of the
State to discharge their indebtedness in Illinois
Internal Improvement Scrip —

Be it enacted by the People of the state
of Illinois represented in the General
Assembly: That the obligors upon a certain
bond executed by sundry citizens of the
City of Springfield, in ~~behalf~~ favour of
the State of Illinois for the sum of fifty
thousand dollars, be authorized to discharge
the same or the ballance due thereon, in whole
~~and~~ or in part, in Illinois Internal Improve^{ment}_Λ
Scrip —

DOCUMENT 23 – ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY REGISTER OF BOOKS LOANED

December 16, 1842

EXPLANATION

The General Assembly established a library for the state in 1839 and placed it under the jurisdiction of the governor and the justices of the Supreme Court. In 1842 the General Assembly divided the library. The justices kept control over the reports of court decisions and legal treatises for a Supreme Court Library and the secretary of state received control of the rest of the collection for the creation of an Illinois State Library. Both libraries were located in the new state capitol. As part of the 1842 act, the secretary of state became the state librarian, a title the secretary holds to this day.

The Register of Books Loaned to Members of the Legislature, Officers and Members of the Illinois State Government is the earliest known record of the State Library. On Friday, December 16, 1842, one day after the Act requiring the creation of the library register went into effect, Abraham Lincoln borrowed *The Revised Laws of New York, Volume 1st*, thus becoming the first person to check out a book under this new law. Because he was no longer a member of the legislature, he signed the name of his law partner, State Representative S.T. Logan.

Abraham Lincoln's formal use of the Illinois State Library was documented in this *Register* on several other occasions. In 1854, Lincoln spent many evenings researching and analyzing material related to Stephen Douglas' position of opening more western territories to slavery. On Wednesday afternoon, October 4, Lincoln spoke at the capitol for three hours while Douglas interrupted from the side. Lincoln also used many of this library's sources when composing his famous "Cooper Union" speech, where he rebutted the idea that the founding fathers had supported slavery. That speech helped him capture the Republican presidential nomination. On November 13, 1860, one week after his election as president, Lincoln borrowed the two volumes of *The Statesman's Manual*, an 1849 set that contained the inaugural addresses and special messages of Presidents Washington through Polk.

Still a vital part of state and local government, today anyone can check out materials from the Illinois State Library. The current library building is named after Gwendolyn Brooks, the state's third poet laureate.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What do you think are the differences in the State Library in 1839 and today?

Why do libraries need to keep records of who checks out materials?

Why would state government need to operate its own library?

DOCUMENT 23 – ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY REGISTER OF BOOKS LOANED

December 16, 1842

TRANSCRIPTION

Date of taking Books from Library	Date of the ^{ier} return	Description of Books taken	Names of persons who take them
1842 Dec. 16	1842 16 th Dec ^r .	Rev. Law N.Y. Vol 1 st	S. T. Logan
" " 17	"	1 st vol. Stephens —	}
" " "	Dec 27 19 th Dec ^r .	Central America &c Laws of 1837	
" " "	Jan 19	Laws of Congress last session	J H Ralston
" " "	17 Dec. 1842	Vol. 2 nd & 3 Statutes N. Y-	Lot Whitcomb
" "	Dec. 27 –	vol. 2 nd Stephens Cen= tral America &c	}
" "	Dec 24 –	Dorseys Laws M ^d . 3 vols.	
" "	23 Dec ^r .	Jefferson's Works	}
" "	"	Vol. 4 —	
" "	Feb 24	Jeffersons Manual	J., J., Danner
" "	Dec. 29th	Vol ^s . 1 & 2 Thiers French	}
" "		Revolution	
" "	Jan 18 ^t	H Journal 40-41	W ^m . M Jackson
" "	30 th Dec	President's Messages—	W. B Stapp
" "	24 th Dec ^r .	Geological Surveys N. York—	Henry Madden

DOCUMENT 24 – PETITION TO THE COUNTY COURT COMMISSIONERS FOR CONSTABLE OF COLES COUNTY, PLEASANT GROVE PRECINCT

(ca.) 1843

EXPLANATION

This petition sought the appointment of John D. Johnston as a constable, a legal officer who reported to the justice of the peace. The petitioners are asking the three members of the Coles County Commissioners Court to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Constable Daniel P. Needham. Although this petition is undated, we know from other records that Needham was elected a justice of the peace in Coles County on August 21, 1839. When Cumberland County was formed from the southern portion of Coles in 1843, Needham immediately ran for election for both justice of the peace and county commissioner in the new county.

The signature of Thomas Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father, appears on this petition. Tradition states that Thomas Lincoln was a somewhat illiterate carpenter and farmer, although he could sign his name. John D. Johnston was Thomas Lincoln's stepson and Abraham Lincoln's stepbrother. Squire Hall, who also signed the petition, was married to John D. Johnston's sister and had been a neighbor of the Lincolns in Indiana.

Thomas Lincoln was born in Virginia in 1778 and moved with his family to the Kentucky wilderness as a child. At the age of eight, he witnessed his father killed by Indians. The death of his father resulted in a hard life for Thomas. In 1806, Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks and together they had three children: Sarah, Abraham and Thomas. In 1816 the family moved to Indiana, where on October 5, 1818, Nancy Hanks died. On December 2, 1819, Thomas Lincoln married Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children. In March 1830, Thomas Lincoln and twelve members of his extended family moved to Macon County, Illinois. The next year, Abraham Lincoln left his extended family to begin life on his own while Thomas and others moved to a farm south of Charleston in Coles County. Thomas died there in 1851. Sarah Bush Johnston died there in 1869.

Petitioning government officials for jobs and favors was a common practice in the 1800s and still is today. However, Johnston did not receive the appointment as constable.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why might Thomas Lincoln, John D. Johnston and Squire Hall all move to the same area of Illinois?

What is a constable and what kind of duties would a constable perform?

Why didn't any women sign this document?

**DOCUMENT 24 – PETITION TO THE COUNTY COURT COMMISSIONERS
FOR CONSTABLE OF COLES COUNTY, PLEASANT
GROVE PRECINCT**

(ca.) 1843

TRANSCRIPTION

To the honorable County Commissioners of Coles County
Ill^s. we your petitioners pray your honorable body
to appoint John D. Johnston Constable in and
for the pleasant Grove precinct to fill the Vac
=ancy of Daniel P. Needham resigned and in
duty bound your petitioners will ever pray &c

Charles Bolen

John Fulfer

Squire Hall

Thomas Lincoln

Heazakiah Balch

T. L. Balch

Wm L Balch

M. Tallon

James D anderson

B.. Owens

Nathaniel Owens

Jepha Owens

J.. Chowings

Dick Fancher

Patrick Gordan

Daniel Gordan

DOCUMENT 25 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR THOMAS FORD FOR A PARDON IN THE CASE OF SAMUEL SMITH OF SANGAMON COUNTY

1845

EXPLANATION

Lincoln was one of twenty persons who signed this petition to Illinois Governor Thomas Ford asking that he release Samuel Smith from prison. Smith had been convicted of assault and sentenced to three days in prison and a fine. According to the petition he had already served longer than his three-day sentence.

Thomas Ford, to whom the petition was addressed, was Illinois' eighth governor. A Democrat, he served from 1842 to 1846. He is considered one of Illinois' better governors because he instituted a financial program that helped solve the deep debt Illinois faced due to the failure of its internal improvements plan. Ford's program included raising taxes, borrowing money and limiting spending. Although the debt wouldn't be completely paid off until well after the Civil War, his efforts allowed construction to begin again on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, which, when completed in 1848, created a waterway connecting the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. It was during Ford's administration, however, that Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were murdered by a mob in Carthage, Illinois after being promised protection by the governor. After Ford left office, he wrote a history of early Illinois, covering the years from 1818 to 1847.

Among those signing the petition were Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's former law partner, and William H. Herndon, his third and final law partner. Also signing the petition was Samuel H. Treat, the judge who had sentenced Smith in the first place. Although a Democrat, Treat and Lincoln were friends. According to the book *Now They Belong to the Ages*, Lincoln argued more than 870 cases before Treat when he served as a judge on the Eighth Judicial Circuit, appeared in at least 162 cases before Treat when he was on the Illinois Supreme Court and appeared in another 136 cases before him after Treat became a federal judge.

Smith had been sentenced in November 1845. Governor Ford pardoned him on December 2.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why was Thomas Ford considered a good governor?

Why do you think Samuel Smith was kept in jail for longer than three days?

Why do you think the petition emphasized that Samuel Smith "was a poor man and is unable to pay the fine and costs of suit?"

DOCUMENT 25 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR THOMAS FORD FOR A
PARDON IN THE CASE OF SAMUEL SMITH OF
SANGAMON COUNTY

1845

TRANSCRIPTION

To the Honorable the Governor of the State
of Illinois

Thoma^s. Ford

Your Petitioners would respectfully represent that Samuel Smith a citizen of this State and of Sangamon, was at the last Term of the Circuit Court, indicted for an assault by the Grand jurors of said County and convicted by the petit jurors of an assault and sentenced by the Honorable Judge of the Circuit, Samuel H. Treat, to three days imprisonment and ten dollars fine and pay the Cost of suit. Your petitioners would further respectfully represent that the Said Saml. Smith has lain in the county jail all the said term and several days more and that he is still in jail and is a poor man and is unable to pay the fine and costs of suit and they would most respectfully ~~beg~~^{ask} of Your Excellency to release him from prison, so that he may pay the fine and cost of suit

Names	Names
David H. Hermon	W. H. Herndon
A., Lincoln	
S T Logan	
Wm. Pope	James Dougless
R Herndon	Tho ^s Strawbridge
E Darling	J. L. Canfield
J. H Meriweather	Seth R Cutter
J. Bunn	Nicholas Bryan
R. H. Proctor	<u>Waterman P. Allen</u>
J. A. Ball	lenard Mitts
John S Clayton	
S. H. Treat.	

DOCUMENT 26 – ELECTION RETURNS–SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1846

EXPLANATION

In 1846, Abraham Lincoln ran for United States Congress as a Whig candidate. He defeated Democrat Peter Cartwright and served one term. This document is a page from the official election returns housed at the Illinois State Archives.

There were seven congressional districts in Illinois at the time and the seventh district was the only one with a Whig majority. As such, several Whig politicians wanted the opportunity to run for Congress from this district. The leading Whig politicians struck a deal that rotated the party's nomination among them. In 1842, Whigs nominated John J. Hardin and in 1844 they nominated Edward Baker. Both candidates won their election and served one term. In 1846, it was Lincoln's turn and Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's former law partner, ran in 1848.

Cartwright was a well-known Methodist minister who strongly supported the ideas of former president Andrew Jackson. At one point he made religion an issue in the campaign, questioning Lincoln's commitment to Christianity. Although Lincoln admitted that he was not a follower of any one church, Cartwright's charges did not hurt Lincoln, who won the election with fifty-six percent of the vote. Elihu Wolcott of the short-lived Liberty Party received two percent of the total vote. This party was formed in 1839 to promote the abolition of slavery by political means.

In Congress, Lincoln wrote but never introduced an amendment to a bill that would have abolished slavery in the District of Columbia, which, as the nation's capital, was under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Lincoln opposed the Mexican War, which had been begun by Democrat President James Polk. That opposition was unpopular in his home district and hurt the Whig Party. In 1848, the Whigs nominated Logan for Congress, but he lost the seat in a close election.

For Lincoln, after one term in Congress and four terms in the state legislature, it appeared as if his political career in the overwhelmingly Democratic state had ended.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

How many congressional districts does Illinois have today?

Why was the Seventh Congressional District nomination so prized by the Whigs?

In which counties did Lincoln receive the highest percentage of votes? In which counties did he do the worst?

DOCUMENT 26 – ELECTION RETURNS–SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1846

TRANSCRIPTION

1846

General Election
Members 29th Congress of the
United States. Continued

Sixth Congressional District

Counties	Thomas. J. Turner	James. Knox	Wade. Talcott	Scattering
Jo DAVISse	1459	1429	19	7
Stephenson	438	434	33	
Winnebago	532	679	226	
Carroll	262	347	2	
Ogle	518	582	183	
Lee	391	273	65	
Whiteside	370	366	63	
Rock Island	463	491	32	2 9
Henry	205	157	46	
Stark	220	207	57	
Mercer	361	369	24	
Henderson	301	382		
Warren	532	580	45	
Knox	758	825	141	
M ^c Donough	567	542	11	18
Hancock	1466	793		
	8843	8456	947	

Seventh Congressional District

Counties	Peter Cartwright	Abraham Lincoln	Elihue Walcot
Putnam	213	216	139
Marshall	323	252	21
Woodford	300	215	15
Tazewell	436	819	42
Mason	294	330	
Menard	336	456	
Cass	489	546	
Morgan	949	979	18
Scott	478	602	
Logan	166	390	
Sangamon	845	1535	14
	4829	6340	249

DOCUMENT 27 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR AUGUSTUS C. FRENCH FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM B. FONDEY AS A NOTARY PUBLIC

March 7, 1850

EXPLANATION

Fifty-five individuals, including Lincoln, signed a petition addressed to Governor Augustus C. French to appoint Springfield resident William B. Fondey as a notary public, a person legally empowered to witness and certify the validity of documents. At the time, only the governor could appoint a person as a notary public. Today, the Secretary of State appoints notaries public and they are regulated by the Secretary's Index Department. There are more than 183,000 notaries in Illinois today.

Governor Augustus C. French, a Democrat, was the state's first two-term governor. Under the original state constitution, which went into effect in 1818, governors could only serve one consecutive term. In 1848, the state adopted a new constitution that kept the one-term limit. However, because the new constitution moved the gubernatorial election from non-presidential election years to presidential election years, French was allowed to run for reelection in 1848 after having been elected the first time two years earlier. In all, he served one two-year term as governor and one four-year term as governor, for a total of six years. It would not be until the 1870 state constitution that governors were allowed to serve more than one consecutive term.

Although Lincoln was a leader of the Whig Party, during the last half of the 1840s the party was in disarray in Illinois. French easily defeated his Whig opponent in 1846 when that opponent did not bother to campaign. Lincoln that year was elected as the state's lone Whig congressman. In 1848, French basically ran unopposed and received more than eighty-six percent of the vote. As governor, French continued the frugal fiscal policies of his predecessor, Thomas Ford, helping to further pay down the state debt from the failed internal improvements plan.

Fondey was a Springfield resident and local merchant. He received his commission as a notary on March 25, 1850.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What are some reasons that a notary's signature and stamp are still required on a document today?

Why did Governor French serve more than one term?

How long may an Illinois governor serve today? What are some arguments for and against limiting the number of any government official's terms?

**DOCUMENT 27 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR AUGUSTUS C. FRENCH FOR
THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM B. FONDEY AS A
NOTARY PUBLIC**

March 7, 1850

TRANSCRIPTION

Hon. A. C. French Governor of Illinois.

Sir,, The undersigned your petitioners
legal voters of the City of Springfield would respectfully
request that your Excellency appoint W^m B. Fonday
as an additional Notary Public for this City. and as
in duty bound &c- March 7th 1850

Tho H Campbell	A. G. Henry
M. Brayman	Walter Davis
W ^m . Stadden	R P Abel
E. Moore	T. R. King
P. Shutt	<u>L. B. Adams</u>
D. B Campbell	<u>R. W. Diller</u>
A,, Lincoln	C. S. Corneau
John B. Moffett	R. Coon
E B Herndon	A O Millington
S. C. Runyon	S. B. Moody
J. D. Stratton	<u>J M Morse</u>
J C Sutton	Benjamin Talbott
T. J. V. Owen	Jos Klein.
N S Bates	S. G. Jones
J. M. Burkhardt	I. S. Britton
John <u>G. Ives</u>	John E Roll
E. Bliss	W. T. Gibbons
I B Curran	James H. Matheny
Geo,, Eastman	W Harvey
W ^m Mourer	J W Hampton
John C. Lamb	Henry C Beers
James L. Lamb	Richard Herndon
Charles B. Pelton	Thos R Mauzy
Hiram Walker	F. Clinton
C. W. Matheny	<u>Daniel Ragsdale</u>
B. C. Webster	Leighton G. Moore
Asa Eastman	
R. M. Ridgely	
Cha ^s P. Webster	

DOCUMENT 28 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR JOEL A. MATTESON FROM LINCOLN REQUESTING A PARDON FOR WILLIAM D. DAVIS

January 10, 1853

EXPLANATION

This letter is from Lincoln to Illinois' tenth governor, Joel A. Matteson. In this letter, Lincoln asks the governor to grant an early release from the penitentiary of William D. Davis, who had been convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years in jail. Davis was a Coles County resident who had lost an arm while serving in the Army during the Mexican War. Lincoln had served as one of the attorneys for Davis. However, Lincoln and Matteson were bitter opponents and Matteson did not grant clemency to Davis, who was released July 1, 1853 after serving his full sentence.

Matteson was a former state senator and a successful businessman from Joliet. During his term as governor (1853-1857) he helped create a statewide funding mechanism to support local schools and he led the efforts to build a governor's mansion in Springfield and a state prison in Joliet.

In 1855, Matteson was a behind-the-scenes candidate for the United States Senate at a time when the state legislature elected senators. Lincoln was the favorite candidate coming in to the vote but he didn't have the majority needed for election. When it became apparent he couldn't win and that Matteson might, he threw his support behind Lyman Trumbull, an Anti-Nebraska Democrat. Trumbull won and served three terms in the Senate. Of Matteson, Lincoln wrote, "his defeat gives me more pleasure than my own gives me pain."

After leaving office Matteson was charged with fraud and swindling the state out of as much as \$388,000 at a time when the governor's salary was \$1,500 a year. Although never convicted, it appears as if Matteson was guilty of the crime.

Matteson was the first governor in Illinois who came from the growing northern part of the state. He was also the last Democratic governor of Illinois for 36 years. He defeated a Whig opponent in 1852 but by 1856 the newly formed Republican Party would win the governor's mansion and the Whig Party would be extinct.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

What kinds of changes were occurring politically in the 1850s in Illinois?

Did Lincoln's letter have any influence on Matteson?

What are some arguments for and against allowing a governor or president the power to pardon people convicted of crimes?

**DOCUMENT 28 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR JOEL A. MATTESON FROM
LINCOLN REQUESTING A PARDON FOR WILLIAM D.
DAVIS**

January 10, 1853

TRANSCRIPTION

Springfield, Jan^y 10. 1853.

His Excellency, the Governor
of the State of Illinois–

Sir:

In July 1850, a
man by the name of William D. Davis, was
tried and convicted of the crime Manslaughter
and sentenced to the Penitentiary for the term
of three years, by the circuit court of Clark
county, whither his case had been taken
by a change of venue from Coles county–
I assisted in his defence, and thought his
conviction was right, but that the term fixed
was too long under the circumstances– I
told him that if he should behave him=
self well for a considerable portion of the
time, I would join in asking a pardon
for the remainder– He has a young family,
and has lost one of his arms– He has
now served about five sixths of his time;
and I understand, the Warden, who is now
in Springfield, testifies that he has be=
haved well– Under these circumstances, I hope
he may be released from further confinement–

Your Ob^t Serv^t A., Lincoln

DOCUMENT 29 – NOTICE FROM CLERK OF SANGAMON COUNTY THAT LINCOLN HAS DECLINED TO SERVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

November 27, 1854

EXPLANATION

Abraham Lincoln had served as a congressman from 1847 to 1849, but his unpopular stand against the Mexican War and the decline of the Whig Party seemed to finish his political career. In the early 1850s he focused more on law than on politics.

In 1854, Congress, under the leadership of Stephen Douglas, passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act. Lincoln strongly opposed that act, which basically allowed slavery to spread into territories in the North. He actively reentered politics. The Kansas-Nebraska Act split the Democratic Party into two factions, the regular Democrats and the Anti-Nebraska Democrats. It also briefly reinvigorated the state's Whig Party.

Lincoln ran for state representative in 1854 not because he wanted to but because local Whigs convinced him he was needed on the ballot to help strengthen the Whig and anti-Democratic Party chances. On November 7, Lincoln and his former law partner, Stephen T. Logan, were both elected as state representatives from Sangamon County.

The anti-Democratic Party coalition did so well in the election that Lincoln thought the General Assembly might elect him as United States senator. However, the law stated that a member of the General Assembly could not be selected for United States Senate. Knowing this, on November 27, three weeks following his election, Lincoln resigned as state representative. This document is the official notification of Lincoln's resignation.

The General Assembly met in February 1855 to vote for U. S. senator. On the first ballot, Lincoln received forty-five votes, just shy of the fifty needed for election. Eight more ballots followed, but Lincoln's vote total declined. On the tenth ballot, he threw his votes behind Lyman Trumbull, an anti-Nebraska Democrat, who won 51-47.

In 1858 Lincoln would again seek the U.S. Senate seat, this time against Stephen Douglas. Lincoln lost again but the campaign made him famous enough to be elected president two years later.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Whigs want such prominent men as Lincoln and Logan to run for state representative?

What action created such strong feelings against the Democratic Party in Illinois?

How might have American history been different had Lincoln been elected by the legislature to the United States Senate in February 1855?

**DOCUMENT 29 – NOTICE FROM CLERK OF SANGAMON COUNTY THAT
LINCOLN HAS DECLINED TO SERVE IN THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

November 27, 1854

TRANSCRIPTION

County Clerks Office

Springfield Illinois

November 27 1854

J A Matteson

Govenor of the State of Illinois

Sir

You are hereby notified
that Abraham Lincoln has filed in my office
a notice decling to accept the office of Representative
in the General Assembly of the State of Illinois
for the County of Sangamon to which office he was
Elected on the 7th Nov past

Verry Respectfully

Your Obt Servt

N W Matheny

Clerk County Court

Sangamon County

DOCUMENT 30 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM BISSELL FROM LINCOLN CONCERNING A PARDON FOR SAMUEL AND JAMES JONES

March 22, 1858

EXPLANATION

This letter from Abraham Lincoln to Governor William Bissell asks for a pardon for Samuel and James Jones, a father and son from Logan County who had been convicted of stealing five shoats, or small hogs. The letter contains many items of interest.

The letter is written from Lincoln, Illinois, the county seat of Logan County. Lincoln, Illinois has the distinction of being the only city named after Abraham Lincoln in his lifetime. Lincoln had surveyed the town and so in 1853 the owners of the land named the town after him. Lincoln was in the town of Lincoln when he wrote the letter as part of his law practice, which consisted of traveling to the different county courthouses on the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

The letter also shows Lincoln's sense of humor and his honesty. Lincoln jokingly writes, "he is an old citizen (the father I mean) . . ." as if he needed to clarify his remarks. Rather than try to adorn his letter with lengthy arguments about why the Joneses should be pardoned, Lincoln honestly admits that he doesn't know much about the case. Still, he makes a compelling argument in favor of the pardon.

The letter was one of several letters sent to the governor on behalf of Samuel and James Jones. Governor Bissell also received a letter from Lincoln's friend David Davis, who was the judge in the case, a letter from Ward Hill Lamon, a Lincoln friend who prosecuted the case, and a petition signed by several attorneys.

Bissell, the first Republican governor of the state, granted the pardon. The Joneses were released from prison on April 22, 1858.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why does this letter show Lincoln's honesty?

Why would the citizens ask Lincoln to write a letter if he wasn't involved in the case?

Why was Lincoln, Illinois named after Abraham Lincoln?

**DOCUMENT 30 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM BISSELL FROM
LINCOLN CONCERNING A PARDON FOR SAMUEL AND
JAMES JONES**

March 22, 1858

TRANSCRIPTION

Lincoln, March 22- 1858

His Excellency

W. H. Bissell

Dear Sir

Samuel Jones and James

Jones, at court here last week, were found guilty of stealing five shoats, or small hogs– I have been appealed to, to say something in favor of their being pardoned– They are father and son– I know nothing to say, except that he is an old citizen (I mean the father) and his neighbors appear more anxious that he and his son should be pardoned, than I have known in any other case– This is really all I can say– I was not concerned in the trial; and consequently did not listen to the evidence–

Your Ob^t Serv^t

A. Lincoln–

DOCUMENT 31 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM BISSELL FOR A PARDON IN THE CASE OF DAVID THOMPSON

April 1858

EXPLANATION

This document is the fourth page of a petition from Woodford County residents asking for a pardon for David Thompson, who had been convicted in 1856 of manslaughter and sentenced to eight years in prison. The case occurred in Metamora, which was then the county seat of Woodford County and on the Eighth Judicial Circuit, where Lincoln practiced law. David Davis, Lincoln's friend and a leading Republican in the state, served as the judge in the case but still supported granting the pardon. Lincoln added a postscript to the petition noting that the court had appointed him as defense attorney.

Elected in 1856, William Bissell was the first Republican governor of the state. The newly formed Republican Party was created out of the remnants of the old Whig Party, Democrats opposed to the Kansas-Nebraska Act who were known as Anti-Nebraska Democrats, abolitionists and members of a third-party known as the Know-Nothings.

Party members had wanted Lincoln to run for governor in 1856, but he wisely urged that they nominate Bissell, a former congressman. As an Anti-Nebraska Democrat, Bissell could capture some Democrat votes that Lincoln couldn't. Plus, he had been a hero in the Mexican War, whereas Lincoln had opposed the war, which had been popular in Illinois.

Bissell was in failing health and by 1854 needed a crutch to walk. He barely campaigned in 1856 and as governor he conducted most of his business from the governor's mansion. He became the first Illinois governor to die in office, passing away on March 21, 1860.

Lincoln, whose home was only three blocks from the mansion, often visited the governor and gave him advice. Bissell granted Thompson the pardon.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Who was D. Davis and what was his relationship to Abraham Lincoln and Illinois government?

How did the support of Lincoln and Davis influence Bissell's decisions?

Why did Lincoln feel Bissell would be a better candidate for governor than himself?

**DOCUMENT 31 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM BISSELL FOR A
PARDON IN THE CASE OF DAVID THOMPSON**

April 1858

TRANSCRIPTION

A L Doty	B. M. Day
Nicholas Fail	James Berry
Thomas Green	James Piper
James A Sherman	M. L. Fuller Pastor Bap ^t Ch.
James Ley	J., W, Arnold
William L. Ley	John Sears
John Bennett	H, D, Horton
John Summers.	Norman Dutton
J. J. Jones	Christian Dellenbach
W. F. Myers.	S. Hesse

I tried the above case &
think that the Defendant
should be pardoned

D Davis

April 9, 1858 Judge 8th

I was appointed by the court to defend
the above named David Thompson– I thought at
the time his conviction was wrong, and I am now
clearly of opinion he ought to be pardoned–
I have recently been at Woodford; and the uni-
versal sentiment there seems to be in favor of
his pardon– April 12, 1858.

A., Lincoln

DOCUMENT 32 – 1859 HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRY ON THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS ELECTION

January 5, 1859

EXPLANATION

On January 5, 1859, the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives met in joint session and selected Stephen A. Douglas for United States senator. It was the culmination of one of the most famous U. S. Senate races in history.

U.S. voters were not able to directly elect U.S. senators until the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution took effect in 1913. Until that date, most state legislatures selected their state's senators.

In 1858, the newly formed Republican Party chose Abraham Lincoln to be its candidate for U. S. senator. This was the first time in the history of the state that a major political party had nominated a candidate for the U. S. Senate before the legislative elections. Previous to 1858 candidates for U. S. Senate didn't receive party support but would seek support from legislators after the election. Running for his third term, Douglas knew he would have the support of most Democrat legislators.

Lincoln set the tone of the campaign by discussing slavery in accepting the Republican nomination. In what became one of his most famous speeches he declared, "A House divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free."

Lincoln's job was not only to campaign against Douglas but also to campaign for the Republican candidates for the state House and Senate. Lincoln and Douglas campaigned vigorously around the state. They eventually met in a series of debates that focused almost exclusively on the national issue of slavery and gained for Lincoln the name recognition necessary to receive the Republican presidential nomination in 1860.

However, as this page from the 1859 House Journal (RS 600.201) demonstrates, Lincoln's performance wasn't enough to have him selected to the United States Senate. After the election Democrats still held a majority in the legislature. When the General Assembly convened in January 1859, it voted 54 to 46 to elect Douglas.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

How has the election of United States senators changed since the Lincoln-Douglas election of 1858?

What was the main issue of the 1858 election campaign?

Look up the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Why were the seven cities chosen as debate sites and which site is closest to where you live?

DOCUMENT 32 – 1859 HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRY ON THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS ELECTION

January 5, 1859

TRANSCRIPTION

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to their names— Mr Epler offered the following Resolution— Resolved that the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that the House of Representatives is now ready to receive them in joint Session for the purpose of voting for a United States Senator

Mr Caspar Butz member elect from Cook County then came forward presented his credentials and was sworn as a member of this House

Mr Epler's Resolution was then taken up considered and adopted

The Seargent at arms of the Senate announced the Senate and proceeded by their Speaker, the Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the Representatives Seats assigned them

On motion of Senator Kuykendall a call of the joint Session was ordered and all of the members thereof answered to their names

Mr Speaker then announced that nominations for the Office of Senator of the United States for the term of Six years from and after the 4th day of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine would be in order

Whereupon Mr Barrett nominated Stephen A Douglas

Mr Judd nominated Abraham Lincoln

On motion of Mr Peck the door keeper was ordered to clear the Galleries of all persons except ladies.

Mr Speaker then ordered the roll to be called and the members of the Joint Session to vote for their respective Candidates for the Office of Senator of the United States for the term of Six years from and after the 4th day of March next 1859.

The roll of the two Houses being called it appeared that Stephen A Douglas received 54 votes

Abraham Lincoln received 46 votes

Those voting for Mr Douglas are

Messrs Brooks

Bryan Buckmaster Coffey Fuller Goudy Higbee Knapp Kuykendall Martin O'Kean Post Richmond Underwood of the Senate and

Messrs Anderson Bane Barrett Berry Brewer Campbell of Logan Cummings Davis of Montgomery Detrich Engle Epler Erwin Forth Graham Green Hacker

37

Hampton Hardin Hick of Gallitin Hitt Hoiles Job, Kerley King M'Cleave M'Elvin Metcalf Powell Pulley Rosevelt Rush Shaw Sherley Short Sloss Stephenson Updegraph Wilson Wood Mr Speaker

Of the House of Representatives

Those voting for Mr Lincoln are Messrs Adams of Lee Adams of Stephenson Applington Bestor Blodgett Cook Henderson Judd Marshall Parks Vanderen

Of the Senate and

Messrs Baker Blaisdell Brace Bryant Butz Campbell of La Salle Church Cradock Davis of Stephenson Dewolf Gilmore Haines Harmon Hick of Livings =ton Higgins Hood Hurlburt Jarrot Mack M'Call Miles Moore Mosely Norton Patton Peck Plato Prothow Rice Scheel Stickel Swett Townsend Verlnilyea White

Of the House of Representatives whereupon Mr Speaker announced

That Stephen A Douglas was duly elected Senator of the United States for the term of Six years from and after the 4th day of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine

The President of the Senate then announced that the object of the joint Session having been accomplished the Senate would withdraw to their Chamber

Whereupon the Senate withdrew

On motion of Mr Hitt the House adjourned until to-morrow morning 9. O'Clock

D. E Head, Clerk

House of Representatives

DOCUMENT 33 – LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM SEWARD TO ILLINOIS GOVERNOR RICHARD J. OGLESBY

March 12, 1866

EXPLANATION

This document is the first page of a four-page letter from United States Secretary of State William H. Seward to Illinois Governor Richard J. Oglesby. In the letter, Seward seeks a pardon for Willis A. Bogart, a former servant of Seward's and a Civil War veteran. Bogart had been sentenced to two years and six months in jail for committing a crime in Chicago.

Seward wrote the letter on March 12, 1866, almost one year after the death of Lincoln. The letter is written on black-bordered stationary known as mourning paper. Almost a full year after the assassination of Lincoln, Seward was still mourning his death.

Seward had served as Secretary of State under Lincoln and was one of his closest advisors in Washington. On the same evening Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, Seward was attacked by a knife-wielding co-conspirator of Booth's. Seward survived the attack and continued to serve as Secretary of State under Lincoln's successor, Andrew Johnson.

Oglesby was a close Illinois friend of Lincoln's who gave him the nickname "the Rail Splitter" at the 1860 Republican State Convention. He was elected three times as Illinois governor and once as a U. S. senator. Oglesby was in Washington, D. C. when Lincoln was assassinated and was present at his deathbed. He helped ensure that Lincoln was buried in Springfield, rather than Washington, and he became president of the National Lincoln Monument Association, the organization that constructed and maintained Lincoln's Tomb.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

In what ways does our nation mourn the death of a president?

What things in your town commemorate a past president?

Many textbooks mention "Seward's Folly." What is this and how has it affected our country?

**DOCUMENT 33 – LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM
SEWARD TO ILLINOIS GOVERNOR RICHARD J.
OGLESBY**

March 12, 1866

TRANSCRIPTION

Washington, March 12th 1866.

Sir:

Willis A. Bogart, is a colored man,
who, I think, has been in some ca-
pacity in the military service; perhaps
only a servant in the quarter-master's,
or some other department. He certain-
ly was disabled in the war.

In former times he was a ser-
vant of mine. His mother, Harriet
C. Bogart, is an exemplary and es-
timable woman, and has for more
than thirty years been connected

DOCUMENT 34 – REMINISCENCES OF WILLIAM L. WILSON TO ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES MCCARTNEY REGARDING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

February 3, 1882

EXPLANATION

Following Lincoln's death his law partner, William H. Herndon, sought to preserve his memory by interviewing or writing questions to those who knew Lincoln as a youth. Herndon collected the interviews and the responses to his letters and, with Jesse William Weik, published *Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life (History & Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln)* in 1888. Much of the information we know about Lincoln's childhood and young life came from the efforts of Herndon.

William L. Wilson was the author of this letter. While Herndon did not interview Wilson, he used the information from this letter for his book. Wilson's actual letter is in the possession of the Illinois State Archives because it was written to Illinois Attorney General James McCartney, thus making it an official state record. The Illinois State Archives only keeps official state records in its collection.

William L. Wilson enrolled in the Illinois militia in Rushville. Wilson was a private and Lincoln was a captain in the Fourth Regiment of the Whiteside Brigade. In the letter, Wilson discusses wrestling and running foot races with Lincoln, two activities that were popular among young men on the frontier. Herndon collected other stories about Lincoln doing similar athletic activities in his youth. Wilson also discusses the Battle of Stillman's Run, the first battle of the Black Hawk War and a resounding defeat for the Illinois militia. The Whiteside Brigade was not present at the battle.

Wilson's memory was not accurate in all details. Lincoln had little money at this time of his life and it is doubtful that he would actually bet money on a race. In addition, the "five-dollar bill" was not issued by the federal government until 1861. It is ironic that Wilson mentioned this bill because starting in 1923 the image of Abraham Lincoln has been used on five-dollar bills. Very few men ever beat Lincoln in wrestling or foot racing, and Wilson probably did not either.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

How trustworthy can the memories and recollections of a person be when they talk about their past relationship with a famous person?

Why does the State Archives have a copy of this letter?

Who was William H. Herndon and what role did he play in preserving Lincoln's memory?

DOCUMENT 34 – REMINISCENCES OF WILLIAM L. WILSON TO ATTORNEY
GENERAL JAMES MCCARTNEY REGARDING ABRAHAM
LINCOLN

February 3, 1882

TRANSCRIPTION

Rushville Feb 3^d 1882

James McCartney

Atty Gen State of Illinois

My Dear Sir

I wish to inform you that
I was in the black Hawk War and my
my mind runs back to the memorable
Event of Stillmans defeat on the night
of the 13th day of May 1832= I was there
on the night of the 15^t also and camped
with Gen. Sam'l Whitesides Brigade and
what a time we did have— you ought
to have been there and shared the fun
and on the 16th of same month we went
to work to find who was killed and found
Eleven- Which we resigned to their last
resting place- God be with them on the
17th we returned to dixon on Rock
River and on the eighteenth we started
again after the red skins. And found
them not= I have, during that time
had—much fun with the afterwards
President of the U S Abraham Lincoln.
I remember one time of wrestling with
him. two best in three an ditched
him—he was not satisfied and we
tried it in a foot race-. for a five dollar
bill I won the money and it is spent
long ago. An many more reminiscences
could I give but am of the Quaker
persuasion and not much givted in
writing

William. L. Wilson

DOCUMENT 35 – CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GOVERNOR RICHARD YATES AND ROBERT T. LINCOLN

May 20, 1901

EXPLANATION

Following Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the citizens of Illinois organized the National Lincoln Monument Association to plan a fitting monument for the late president's tomb. The committee agreed upon Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield as the appropriate place.

Lincoln's body arrived in Springfield on May 3, 1865. After lying in state overnight at the Old State Capitol, Lincoln was brought to Oak Ridge and placed in the public receiving vault. His body was interred there until December 21, 1865, when it was moved to a temporary vault that had been built at the cemetery.

The Lincoln Monument Association chose Larkin G. Mead to design the tomb and it was completed in 1874. In 1871, Lincoln's body was moved to the still unfinished monument. Placed with him in the tomb were three of his sons: Eddie, who died in 1850, Willie, who died in 1862, and Tad, who died in 1871. Mary Lincoln was placed in the tomb following her death in 1882. By the late 1890s the tomb was in need of repair. The State of Illinois had taken possession of the tomb in 1895 and in 1901 began rebuilding it.

This letter from Robert Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's only child who survived into adulthood, discusses his impending review of the reconstruction efforts. Those efforts included temporarily removing Lincoln's body from the tomb. From 1865 to 1901, Lincoln's coffin was moved 17 times due to construction and fears for the safety of the president's remains. There was actually a plot in 1876 to steal the body and hold it for ransom. The coffin itself was opened on five separate occasions. Abraham Lincoln was re-interred in the tomb in September 1901 under tons of reinforced cement. It was the last time the body was seen or moved.

Robert Lincoln addressed the letter to Illinois Governor Richard Yates, Jr. who served as governor from 1901-1905. His father, Richard Yates, Sr., was a political ally of Lincoln and served as governor during the Civil War (1861-1865) and as a United States senator.

Today, the Lincoln tomb is open to the public as a fitting memorial to our sixteenth president. Robert Lincoln, who served as Secretary of War under President James Garfield, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Why would Robert Todd Lincoln want his visit kept a secret?

Why would the State Archives have this letter in its holdings?

Robert Todd Lincoln died in Vermont on July 26, 1926. What are some possible reasons for him not wanting to be buried in the Lincoln Tomb?

DOCUMENT 35 – CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GOVERNOR RICHARD
YATES AND ROBERT T. LINCOLN

May 20, 1901

TRANSCRIPTION

PULLMAN BUILDING,
CHICAGO.

OFFICIAL.

May 20th, 1901.

Hon. Richard Yates,
Governor, Springfield, Ill.

My Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks,
the receipt of your letter of May 17th, through
Mr. Bayliss, in relation to the Lincoln Monument
at Springfield.

If I do not hear from you that the time is
not entirely convenient, I will arrive at Spring-
field by the Alton road at 2:20 in the afternoon,
next Thursday, and will arrange to have a carriage
meet me at the station, as I would like to go at
once to the Monument, and afterwards to consult
with such members of the Board as may find it con-
venient to meet me.

I would be greatly obliged if my visit, and

especially its object, should be kept confidential,
as I should very much regret to see it made a
subject of comment in the newspapers.

I am

Very respectfully yours,

Robert T. Lincoln

entirely

satisfactory

~~wire Coehran &~~
~~Wood & Wright corner~~
~~130 - S Orphans Bd~~

MUSTER ROLL of Captain

A. Lincoln

, Company (———), of the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers,

Colonel

from the

day of

186

when last

Mustered out of service of the United States at the mouth of Fox River May the 24th 1862.

No.	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. (Privates in alphabetical order.)	RANK.	JOINED FOR SERVICE AND ENROLLED AT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS: COMMENCEMENT OF FIRST PAYMENT BY TIME. (In the case of Drafted Men, see Note 9.)				MUSTERED INTO SERVICE. (In the case of Drafted Men, see Note 9.)				LAST PAID. (See Note 6.)		NAME PRESENT
			WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.	WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHAT (In the case of Drafted Men, from what Enrollment Dis.)	BY PAYMASTER.	TO WHAT TIME.		
✓ 1	Abraham Lincoln	Captain	April	Richland									
✓ 1	Daniel M. Thompson	1st Lt.	"										
✓ 1	John Brown	2 ^d "	"	"									
✓ 1	John Armstrong	1st Surgt	"	"									
✓ 1	James M. Anderson	2 ^d "	"	"									
✓ 1	George W. Scott	3 ^d "	"	"									
✓ 1	Charles Morgan	4 th "	"	"									
✓ 1	Thomas Bond	Merch	"	"									
✓ 1	John Slater	2 ^d "	"	"									
✓ 1	John J. Perry	3 ^d "	"	"									
✓ 1	Alexander Bond	4 th "	"	"									
✓ 15	John Greiner	Private	"	"									
✓ 22	John M. Thompson	"	"	"									
✓ 37	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 52	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 53	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 12	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 38	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 53	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 28	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 16	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 39	John Bond	"	"	"									
✓ 18	John Bond	"	"	"									

OVERSIZE
1921
LINC 13
c.3

DOCUMENT 1 – PORTION OF MUSTER ROLL OF CAPTAIN A. LINCOLN'S
COMPANY IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

1832

TRANSCRIPTION

MUSTER ROLL of Captain A. Lincolns , Company (—) of the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers,
Colonel , from the day of 186 , when last
Mustered out of service of the United States at the mouth of Fox River. May the 24th 1832.

No.	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. <i>(Privates in alphabetical order.)</i>	RANK.	JOINED FOR SERVICE AND ENROLLED AT GENERAL RENDEZVOUS. COMMENCEMENT OF FIRST PAYMENT BY TIME. <i>(In the case of Drafted Men, See Note 9.)</i>				MUSTERED INTO SERVICE. <i>(In the case of Drafted Men, See Note 9.)</i>			LAST PAID. <i>(See Note 6.)</i>	
			WHEN.	WHERE. <i>Enlisted</i>	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.	WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM. <i>(In the case of Drafted Men, from what Enrolment Dis-</i>	BY PAYMASTER.	TO WHAT TIME.
✓	Abraham Lincoln	Captain	21 April	Richland Sangamon City							
✓	Samuel M. Thompson	1 st Lt.	"	"							
✓	John Brannan	2 ^d "	"	"							
✓	John Armstrong	1 st Serg't	"	"							
✓	Tavner B. Anderson	2 ^d "	"	"							
✓	George W. Foster	3 ^d "	"	"							
✓	Obadiah Morgan	4 th "	"	"							
✓	Thomas Comb	1 Corp'l	"	"							
✓	John Plaster	2 "	"	"							
✓	W ^m F. Berry	3 "	"	"							
✓	Alexander Trent	4 "	"	"							
15 ✓	John Erwin	Private	"	"							
22 ✓	John H. Houghton	"	"	"							
37 ✓	Thomas Pierce										
52 ✓	Samuel Tebb										
23 ✓	Henry Hadley										
12 ✓	Samuel Dutton										
38 ✓	Calvin Pierce										
53 ✓	Joseph Tibb										
28 ✓	W ^m Kirkpatrick										
16 ✓	Cyrus Elmore										
39 ✓	Elijah Pierce										
18 ✓	Lewis W. Farmer										

MUSTER ROLL of Captain

A. D. Wickstrick, Company (—), of the 4th Regiment of Mounted Volunteers,

Colonel

Mustered out of service of the United States at the mouth of Fox River May the 29th 1832, from the day of 186, when last

No.	NAMES. PRESENT AND ABSENT. (Privates in alphabetical order.)	RANK.	JOINED FOR SERVICE AND ENROLLED AT GENERAL REDEMPTIONS. COMPLETION OF FIRST PAYMENT BY TIME. (In the case of Drafted Men, see Note 9.)			MUSTERED INTO SERVICE. (In the case of Drafted Men, see Note 9.)			LAST PAID. (See Note 6.)		NAME PRESENT
			WHEN.	WHERE.	BY WHOM.	PERIOD.	WHERE.	BY WHOM. (In the case of Drafted Men, from what Enrollment Dis.)	BY PAYMASTER.	TO WHAT TIME.	
✓ 1	Abraham Lincoln	Captain	April	Michigan							
✓ 2	Samuel M. Thompson	1st Lt.	"	"							
✓ 3	John Brown	2 ^d "	"	"							
✓ 4	John Anderson	1st Sgt.	"	"							
✓ 5	James M. Scott	2 ^d "	"	"							
✓ 6	Charles Morgan	3 ^d "	"	"							
✓ 7	Richard Bond	4 th "	"	"							
✓ 8	John Plaster	5 th "	"	"							
✓ 9	John J. Perry	6 th "	"	"							
✓ 10	Richard J. Smith	7 th "	"	"							
✓ 11	John Green	8 th "	"	"							
✓ 12	John J. Thompson	9 th "	"	"							
✓ 13	John J. Smith	10 th "	"	"							
✓ 14	John J. Smith	11 th "	"	"							
✓ 15	John J. Smith	12 th "	"	"							
✓ 16	John J. Smith	13 th "	"	"							
✓ 17	John J. Smith	14 th "	"	"							
✓ 18	John J. Smith	15 th "	"	"							
✓ 19	John J. Smith	16 th "	"	"							
✓ 20	John J. Smith	17 th "	"	"							
✓ 21	John J. Smith	18 th "	"	"							
✓ 22	John J. Smith	19 th "	"	"							
✓ 23	John J. Smith	20 th "	"	"							
✓ 24	John J. Smith	21 st "	"	"							
✓ 25	John J. Smith	22 nd "	"	"							
✓ 26	John J. Smith	23 rd "	"	"							
✓ 27	John J. Smith	24 th "	"	"							
✓ 28	John J. Smith	25 th "	"	"							
✓ 29	John J. Smith	26 th "	"	"							
✓ 30	John J. Smith	27 th "	"	"							
✓ 31	John J. Smith	28 th "	"	"							
✓ 32	John J. Smith	29 th "	"	"							
✓ 33	John J. Smith	30 th "	"	"							
✓ 34	John J. Smith	31 st "	"	"							
✓ 35	John J. Smith	32 nd "	"	"							
✓ 36	John J. Smith	33 rd "	"	"							
✓ 37	John J. Smith	34 th "	"	"							
✓ 38	John J. Smith	35 th "	"	"							
✓ 39	John J. Smith	36 th "	"	"							
✓ 40	John J. Smith	37 th "	"	"							
✓ 41	John J. Smith	38 th "	"	"							
✓ 42	John J. Smith	39 th "	"	"							
✓ 43	John J. Smith	40 th "	"	"							
✓ 44	John J. Smith	41 st "	"	"							
✓ 45	John J. Smith	42 nd "	"	"							
✓ 46	John J. Smith	43 rd "	"	"							
✓ 47	John J. Smith	44 th "	"	"							
✓ 48	John J. Smith	45 th "	"	"							
✓ 49	John J. Smith	46 th "	"	"							
✓ 50	John J. Smith	47 th "	"	"							
✓ 51	John J. Smith	48 th "	"	"							
✓ 52	John J. Smith	49 th "	"	"							
✓ 53	John J. Smith	50 th "	"	"							
✓ 54	John J. Smith	51 st "	"	"							
✓ 55	John J. Smith	52 nd "	"	"							
✓ 56	John J. Smith	53 rd "	"	"							
✓ 57	John J. Smith	54 th "	"	"							
✓ 58	John J. Smith	55 th "	"	"							
✓ 59	John J. Smith	56 th "	"	"							
✓ 60	John J. Smith	57 th "	"	"							
✓ 61	John J. Smith	58 th "	"	"							
✓ 62	John J. Smith	59 th "	"	"							
✓ 63	John J. Smith	60 th "	"	"							
✓ 64	John J. Smith	61 st "	"	"							
✓ 65	John J. Smith	62 nd "	"	"							
✓ 66	John J. Smith	63 rd "	"	"							
✓ 67	John J. Smith	64 th "	"	"							
✓ 68	John J. Smith	65 th "	"	"							
✓ 69	John J. Smith	66 th "	"	"							
✓ 70	John J. Smith	67 th "	"	"							
✓ 71	John J. Smith	68 th "	"	"							
✓ 72	John J. Smith	69 th "	"	"							
✓ 73	John J. Smith	70 th "	"	"							
✓ 74	John J. Smith	71 st "	"	"							
✓ 75	John J. Smith	72 nd "	"	"							
✓ 76	John J. Smith	73 rd "	"	"							
✓ 77	John J. Smith	74 th "	"	"							
✓ 78	John J. Smith	75 th "	"	"							
✓ 79	John J. Smith	76 th "	"	"							
✓ 80	John J. Smith	77 th "	"	"							
✓ 81	John J. Smith	78 th "	"	"							
✓ 82	John J. Smith	79 th "	"	"							
✓ 83	John J. Smith	80 th "	"	"							
✓ 84	John J. Smith	81 st "	"	"							
✓ 85	John J. Smith	82 nd "	"	"							
✓ 86	John J. Smith	83 rd "	"	"							
✓ 87	John J. Smith	84 th "	"	"							
✓ 88	John J. Smith	85 th "	"	"							
✓ 89	John J. Smith	86 th "	"	"							
✓ 90	John J. Smith	87 th "	"	"							
✓ 91	John J. Smith	88 th "	"	"							
✓ 92	John J. Smith	89 th "	"	"							
✓ 93	John J. Smith	90 th "	"	"							
✓ 94	John J. Smith	91 st "	"	"							
✓ 95	John J. Smith	92 nd "	"	"							
✓ 96	John J. Smith	93 rd "	"	"							
✓ 97	John J. Smith	94 th "	"	"							
✓ 98	John J. Smith	95 th "	"	"							
✓ 99	John J. Smith	96 th "	"	"							
✓ 100	John J. Smith	97 th "	"	"							

OVERSIZE
1921
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DOCUMENT 2 – NOTICE TO INTRODUCE AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE SAMUEL
MUSICK TO BUILD A TOLL BRIDGE ACROSS SALT CREEK
IN SANGAMON COUNTY

December 9, 1834

TRANSCRIPTION

Mr Speaker

I now give notice that Thursday
next, or some day thereafter I shall ask leave
to introduce a bill entitled an act to au=
thorize Samuel Musick to build a toll bridge
across Salt creek in Sangamon county—

Mr Speaker

I now give notice that Thursday
next, or some day thereafter I shall ask leave
to introduce a bill entitled an act to au-
thorize Samuel Murick to build a toll bridge
across Salt Creek in Sangamon county—

DOCUMENT 3 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO LOCATE A STATE ROAD BETWEEN
SPRINGFIELD AND GEORGE C. MILLER'S FERRY

February 2, 1835

TRANSCRIPTION

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the people of the State
of Illinois represented in the General Assembly—
That Reuben Harrison, John Clary and Tandy
James be and they are hereby appointed commiss
ioners to view, mark and permanently locate so much
of the state road, leading from Springfield in
Sangamon county to Lewiston in Fulton county, as lies
between Springfield and George G. Miller,s ferry
on the Sangamo river

Sec 2. Said commissioners or a majority of them shall
meet at the town of Springfield on the second
Monday in March next or as soon thereafter as
practicable and after being duly sworn by some
officer authorized to administer oaths, shall proceed
to perform the duties required of them by this act;
avoiding as much as possible the injury of
private property—

Sec 3 The said commissioners shall as soon thereafter
as convenient, cause to be filed with the clerk of the
county commissioner's court of the county of Sangamon
a report and complete map of said road— which report
and map shall be preserved and shall form a part
of the record of said court— Said road when so
established shall be kept in repair as other state
roads are—

Sec 4 The county commissioners court of Sangamon
county shall allow to said commissioners, out of
the county treasury; such compensation, as, to them
shall seem just and reasonable—

Passed H.R. Feb 2. 1835
D. Prickett Clk. H.R.

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That Oliver Harrison, John Selig and Henry James be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to view, mark and permanently locate so much of the State road, leading from Springfield in Sangamon county to Lewisport in Harrison county, as lies between Springfield and George G. Millers ferry on the Sangamon river.

Sec 2. Said commissioners or a majority of them shall meet at the town of Springfield on the second Monday in March next or as soon thereafter as practicable and after being duly sworn in some officer authorized to administer oaths, shall proceed to perform the duties required of them by this act, so much as possible the injury of private property.

Sec 3 The said commissioners, shall as soon thereafter as convenient, cause to be filed with the clerk of the county commissioners court of the county of Sangamon a report and complete map of said road which report and map shall be preserved and shall form a part of the records of said court. Said road when so established shall be kept in repair as other State roads are.

Sec 4 The county commissioners court of Sangamon county shall allow to said commissioners out of the county treasury, such compensation, as to them shall seem just and reasonable.

Passed L. R. Feb 3. 1835

R. Pickett CLK R. R.

11

DOCUMENT 4 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO RELOCATE A PART OF THE STATE
ROAD LEADING FROM SPRINGFIELD TO LEWISTON

December 15, 1835

TRANSCRIPTION

An act to relocate a part of the State Road leading
from Springfield to Lewiston.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of
Illinois represented in the General Assembly: That
Samuel Berry, James Pantier, and John Jones sen. be
and they are hereby appointed commissioners to view,
mark, and relocate so much of the State Road
leading from Springfield to Lewiston as lies between
the Southern boundary line of Township 19 North of Range
7 West, and the residence of the said John Jones sen=

The said commissioners shall meet at the house
of Samuel Berry on the first monday of ~~m~~ May next,
or some convenient day thereafter, and after being
duly sworn, shall proceed to make said relocation, and
shall make return thereof to the county commissioners
court for Sangamon county at their next term.

The said county commissioners court, shall allow said
commissioners such compensation as they may deem
reasonable.

An act to relocate a part of the State Road leading from Springfield to Lewistown.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That Samuel Berry, James Pantier and John Jones sen. be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to view, mark, and relocate so much of the State Road leading from Springfield to Lewistown as lies between the Southern boundary line of Township 19 North of Range 7 West, and the residence of the said John Jones sen.:

The said commissioners shall meet at the house of Samuel Berry on the first Monday of ~~the~~ May next, or some convenient day thereafter, and after being duly sworn, shall proceed to make said relocation, and shall make return thereof to the county commissioners court for Sangamon County at their next term.

The said county commissioners court, shall allow said commissioners such compensation as they may deem reasonable.

DOCUMENT 5 – AMENDMENT TO A BILL FOR AN ACT SUPPLEMENTAL TO
AN ACT TO INCORPORATE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BANK
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

December 22, 1835

TRANSCRIPTION

Sec 4 The said corporation shall, at the next session
of this General Assembly, and at each subsequent
general session, during the existence of it's charter, report
to the same, the amount of debts due from said
corporation, the amount of debts ~~to~~ due to the same,
the amount of specia in it's vaults, and and an ac=
count of all lands ~~held~~ then owned by the same, and
the amount for which such lands have been taken: and
moreover, if said corporation shall, at any time
neglect or refuse, to submit it's books, papers, ~~and~~
and all and every thing necessary to a full and
fair examination of it's affairs, to any person or persons
appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose
of making such examination, the said corpora
tion shall forfeit it's charter.

Sec 5 The said Corporation shall, at the next session of the General Assembly and at each subsequent general session, during the existence of its Charter, report to the same the amount of debt due from said corporation, the amount of debt ~~due~~ due to the same the amount of specie in its vaults, and and an account of all lands ~~held~~ then owned by the same, and the amount for which such lands have been taken: and moreover, if said corporation shall, at any time neglect or refuse to submit its books, papers, ~~and~~ and all and every thing necessary to a full and fair examination of its affairs, to any person or persons appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose of making such examination, the said corporation shall forfeit its Charter.

DOCUMENT 6 –AN ACT TO PERMANENTLY LOCATE THE SEAT OF
GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

February 7, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

See 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly. That the two Houses of the General Assembly shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the 20th— day of February, 1837 at ten O'clock AM., and then and there proceed, by joint vote, to select some suitable point or place for the permanent location of the seat of Government for the State of Illinois.

See 2. Each member shall be at liberty to vote for whatever point or place he may choose, and no point or place shall be deemed selected, until it shall have received a majority of all the votes given.

See 3. In case no point or place shall receive a majority of all the votes given, on the first vote, the two Houses shall continue to vote until some point or place shall receive such majority;
Provided, that this section shall not be construed to prevent an adjournment from day to day.

See 4. When any point or place shall have received a majority as aforesaid, such point or place, shall be and remain the permanent location of the Seat of Government for the State of Illinois, from and after the time for which it is fixed at Vandalia shall have expired. And the sum of thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting a State House and other needful buildings (if any) which shall be expended under the direction of commissioners to be appointed by the present General Assembly—
See 5. An act entitled "An act permanently to locate the Seat of Government of Illinois" approved February 5th 1833 is hereby repealed

Passed the Senate, Feby 7. 1837

J B Thomas, Jr

Sec'y Senate

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly. That the two Houses of the General Assembly shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on the 20th day of February, 1837 at ten o'clock A.M. and then and there proceed, by joint vote, to select some suitable point or place for the permanent location of the Seat of Government for the State of Illinois.

Sec 2. Each member shall be at liberty to vote for whatever point or place he may choose; And no point or place shall be deemed selected, until it shall have received a majority of all the votes given.

Sec 3. In case no point or place shall receive a majority of all the votes given, on the first vote, the two Houses shall continue to vote until some point or place shall receive such majority; Provided, that this section shall not be construed to prevent an adjournment from day to day.

Sec 4. When any point or place shall have received a majority as aforesaid, such point or place, shall be and remain the permanent location of the Seat of Government for the State of Illinois, from and after the time for which it is fixed at Vandalia shall have expired. And the sum of thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the purpose of erecting a State House and other needful buildings (if any) which shall be expended under the direction of

Commissioners to be appointed by the present General Assembly. Sec 5. An act entitled "An act permanently to locate the Seat of Government of Illinois"

Approved February 5th 1835 is hereby repealed

Passed the Senate, Feb. 7. 1837

J. B. Thomas, Jr.
Speaker of the Senate

DOCUMENT 7 – REPORT FROM A SELECT COMMITTEE CONCERNING
THE DIVISION OF SANGAMON COUNTY

February 13, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

The select committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of Sangamon county, praying the establishment of three new counties, principally from the territory of the said county of Sangamon; and to whom was also referred the remonstrance of sundry citizens of the same county, against any division or dismemberment of the same, have had the same under consideration and report: That 1437 names are found on the petition, and 2213 on the remonstrance.

Upon this fact, the committee unanimously agree that the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted, and, therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject—

The same committee, to whom were also referred the petitions of sundry citizens of Montgomery & Shelby counties, praying the establishment of new counties, find that a majority of neither country has signed the said petitions, and they, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject—

The select committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of Tangumou county, praying the establishment of three new counties, principally from the territory of the said county of Tangumou; and to whom was also referred the remonstrances of sundry citizens of the same county, against any division or dismemberment of the said, have had the same under consideration and report: That 1437 names are found on the petition, and 2913 on the remonstrance.

Upon this fact, the committee unanimously agree that the prayer of the petitioners ought not to be granted, and, therefore ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.—

The same committee to whom was also referred the petitions of sundry citizens of Montgomery & Shelby counties, praying the establishment of new counties, find that a majority of neither county has signed the said petitions, and they, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.—

DOCUMENT 8 – SUPREME COURT ROLL OF ATTORNEYS: 1817-1902

March 1, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

DATE OF ENROLLMENT.	NAME.	COUNTY.	DATE OF LICENSE.
Feby 7" 1820	Lockwood Samuel D.		
Dec 13" 1834	Leland Lorenzo		Nov 10" 1834
" " "	Leland Cyrus		" " "
" 14" 1835	Leslie Myron		Dec 14" 1835
Feby 19" "	Linder Usher F.		" 11" "
Jany 4" 1837	Logan Richard		Oct 19" 1836
" 30" "	Lavinia William T. S.		Sept 27" "
* Mar 1" "	Lincoln Abraham		" 9" "
" 2" "	Leary Albert Green		Mar 1" "
Dec 4" 1838	Little Thomas J.		
Jany 15" 1839	Little Sidney H.		Jany 10" 1839
Feby 21" "	Lanphere George C.		Dec 3" 1838
" 25" "	Loop James L.		Feby 25" 1839
July 10" "	Lincoln William S.		Jany 1838
Oct 3" "	Lindsey J. B.		May 30" 1839
July 23" "	Lapsley John B.		July 22" "
Dec 11" "	Lott Peter		
" 16" "	Latimer Charles		Nov 19" 1839
Apl 27" 1840	Lazng George W.		Aug 27" 1836
June 10" "	Lee David S.		June 11" 1840
Dec 24" 1841	Leonard William H.		Dec 21" 1841
" 25" "	Little William E.		Oct 8" 1840
Mar 8" 1842	Leal Ebenezer M.		Mar 8" 1842
July 7" "	Leal James White		June 11" 1840
Dec 12" 1842	Leach Lucien B.		Nov 2" 1842
July 9" "	Lincoln John W.		July 9" "
June 26" 1843	Law Edmund		June 17" 1843
Aug 8" "	Leroy Gilbert		" 15" "
June 12" 1844	Little E. H.		May 12" 1844
July 8" "	Logan David		June 27" "
Dec 23" "	Lawler Michael K		Dec 21" "
Jany 28" 1845	Leavy Edward		Jany 18" 1845
Feby 6" "	Lemon Theodore		June 5" 1838
Apl 8" "	Larrabee Charles H.		Mar 24" 1845
Dec 12" 1844	Le Compte Thomas I.		Feby 14" 1844
" 4" 1845	Lacey Lionel P.		Oct 19" 1843
" 8" "	Leland Edwin S.		Jany 16" 1836
" 11" "	Lindsay John T.		June 4" 1845
" 16" "	Lawrence Charles B.		Mar 8" "
Apl 11" 1846	Lalumiere Stanislaus		Feby 12" "
Dec 26" "	Leech Francis M.		Nov 1" 1846

DATE OF ENROLLMENT.	NAME.	COUNTY.	DATE OF LICENSE.
Feb'y 7" 1820	Lockwood Samuel D.		
Dec 13" 1834	Leland Lorenzo		Nov 10" 1834
" " "	Leland Cyrus		" " "
" 14" 1835	Leslie Myron		Dec 14" 1835
Feb'y 19" "	Leider Usher F.		" 11" "
Jan'y 4" 1837	Logan Richard		Oct 19" 1836
" 30" "	Lovinia William T. S.		Sept 27" "
* Mar 1" "	Lincoln Abraham		" 9" "
" 2" "	Leary Albert Green		Mar 1" "
Dec 4" 1838	Little Thomas J.		
Jan'y 15" 1839	Little Sidney H.		Jan'y 10" 1839
Feb'y 71" "	Lamphear George C.		Dec 3" 1838
" 75" "	Loop James L.		Feb'y 75" 1839
July 10" "	Lincoln William S.		Jan'y 1838
Oct 3" "	Lindsay J. B.		May 30" 1839
July 23" "	Lapsley John B.		July 77" "
Dec 11" "	Lott Peter		
" 16" "	Latimer Charles		Nov 19" 1839
Apl 27" 1840	Layne George W.		Aug 77" 1836
June 10" "	Lee David S.		June 11" 1840
Dec 24" 1841	Leonard William H.		Dec 21" 1841
" 75" "	Little William C.		Oct 8" 1840
Mar 8" 1842	Leal Ebenezer M.		Mar 8" 1842
July 7" "	Leal James White		June 11" 1840
Dec 12" 1842	Leach Lucien B.		Nov 2" 1842
July 9" "	Lincoln John W.		July 9" "
June 26" 1843	Law Edmund		June 17" 1843
Aug 8" "	Leroy Gilbert		" 15" "
June 12" 1844	Little C. H.		May 12" 1844
July 8" "	Logan David		June 27" "
Dec 23" "	Lawler Michael K.		Dec 21" "
Jan'y 28" 1845	Leary Edward		Jan'y 18" 1845
Feb'y 6" "	Lemon Theodore		June 5" 1838
Apl 8" "	Lanabel Charles H.		Mar 24" 1845
Dec 12" 1844	McCompte Thomas F.		Feb'y 14" 1844
" 4" 1845	Lacy Lionel P.		Oct 19" 1843
" 8" "	Leland Edwin S.		Jan'y 16" 1836
" 11" "	Lindsay John T.		June 4" 1845
" 16" "	Lawrence Charles B.		Mar 8" "
Apl 11" 1846	Lumiere Stanislaus		Feb'y 12" "
Dec 26" "	Leech Francis M.		Nov 1" 1846

DOCUMENT 9 – 1837 HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRY ON SLAVERY

March 3, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

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Journal &c. Continued

the words “and other purposes”—

Ordered that the title of the bill be as amended, that the Clerk inform the Senate thereof, and ask their concurrence to the amendment of the House to said bill and the title thereof—

The following protest was presented to the House which was read and ordered to be spread on the Journals,—namely,—

Resolutions upon the Subject of Domestic Slavery having passed both branches of the General Assembly at its its present Session. The undersigned hereby protest against the passage of the Same.

They believe that the Institution of Slavery is founded both in Injustice and bad policy; but that the promulgation of Abolition Doctrines tends rather to Increase than to abate its evils.

They believe the Congress of the United States has no power, under the Constitution to Interfere with the institution of Slavery in the different States.

They believe that the Congress of the United States has the power to under the Constitution to abolish Slavery in the district of Columbia; but that that power ought not to be exercised unless at the request of the people of said district.

The difference between these opinions and those contained in the said Resolutions, is their reasons for entering this protest”.—

Dan Stone.

A. Lincoln.

Representatives from the County of Sangamon.

Message from the Council of Revision by M^r. Owing their Secretary.

M^r. Speaker,

The bills entitled,

“An act to Incorporate the Colhoun Coal and Mining Compay”

“An act for the formation of Michigan County”

“An act laying out certain State Roads”.

“An act to Incorporate the Chippawa Dry dock Company”

“An act to Incorporate the Peoria Hotel Compay,”--

Have been approved of by the Council of Revision

And he withdrew.

M^r. Moore of S^tClair from the Committee on Finance to which was refered the bill from the Senate entitled,

216

Journal &c. Continued

the words "and other purposes" —

Ordered that the title of the bill be as amended, that the Clerk inform the Senate thereof, and ask their concurrence to the amendment of the House to said bill and the title thereof.

The following protest was presented to the House which was read and ordered to be spread on the Journals, — namely, —

Resolutions upon the Subject of Domestic Slavery having passed both branches of the General Assembly at its present session, The undersigned hereby protest against the passage of the same.

They believe that the Institution of Slavery is founded both in Justice and good policy; but that the promulgation of Abolition Doctrines tend rather to increase than to abate its evils.

They believe the Congress of the United States has no power, under the Constitution to interfere with the institution of Slavery in the different States.

They believe that the Congress of the United States has the power to under the Constitution to abolish Slavery in the district of Columbia; but that that power ought not to be exercised unless at the request of the people of said district.

The difference between these opinions, and those contained in the said Resolutions, is their reason for entering this protest". —

Dan Stone,
et. Lincoln.

Representatives from the County of Sangamon.

Message from the Council of Revision by Mr. Dwing the Secretary.

Mr. Speaker,

The bills entitled,

"An act to Incorporate the Coltham Coal and Mining Company"

"An act for the Formation of Michigan County"

"An act laying out certain State Roads"

"An act to Incorporate the Chippewa Dry Dock Company"

"An act to Incorporate the Peoria Hotel Company,"

Have been approved of by the Council of Revision.

And he withdrew.

Mr. Moon of Melan from the Committee on Finance to which was referred the bill from the Senate entitled,

OVERSIZE
1921
LINC 13
c.3

DOCUMENT 10 – LINCOLN'S SALARY WARRANT NO. 256 FOR SERVICE
AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE

July 22, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

AUDITOR'S OFFICE ILLINOIS, Vandalia, *July 22 1837*

\$96 00/100

No. 256

CASHIER of the *Vandalia Branch* STATE BANK

of Illinois, Pay to *Abraham Lincoln -----*

or order, the sum of *Ninety six* dollars and cents,

it being in *full* for his services as a Member of the General Assembly, Special Session, *1837*

[Countersigned and Registered.]

John D Whiteside Treasurer.

Levi Davis
Auditor of Public Accounts

[W. WALTERS, STATE PRINTER]

A. Lincoln

\$ 46 00
100

DOCUMENT 11 – BOND FOR CHARLES R. MATHENY

August 15, 1837

TRANSCRIPTION

Know all men by these presents, that we
Charles R. Matheny, William Butler, A. Lincoln
Robert Allen and A. G. Herndon
are held and firmly bound unto the County Com=
missioners, of the County of Sangamon, and State
of Illinois, for the use of any person or persons
injured, or for the use of the said County if injur=
ed, in the penal sum of One Thousand Dollars
the payment of which will and truly to be made
we bind ourselves, our heirs and assigns. Jointly
severally and firmly by these presents, signed
sealed, and dated this 15th day of August
in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight
Hundred and Thirty seven.

The Condition of the above obligation is such
that whereas the above bounden Charles R.
Matheny has been duly elected Clerk of the
said County Commissioners Court—

Now if he the said Charles R Matheny
shall faithfully perform the duties of said
office as required by law then the above
obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force
& effect—

C. R. Matheny (seal)

William Butler (seal)

A. Lincoln (seal)

Robert Allen (seal)

A. G. Herndon (seal)

Know all men by these presents, that we
 Charles R. Matheny, William Butler, A. Lincoln
 Robert Allen and A. G. Herndon
 are held and firmly bound unto the County Com-
 missioners, of the County of Sangamon, and State
 of Illinois, for the use of any person or persons
 injured, or for the use of the said County if injur-
 ed, in the penal sum of One Thousand Dollars
 the payment of which well and truly to be made
 we bind ourselves, our heirs and assigns. Jointly
 Severally and firmly by these presents, signed
 sealed, and dated this 15th day of August
 in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight
 Hundred and Thirty Seven.

The Condition of the above obligation is such
 that whereas the above bounden Charles R.
 Matheny has been duly elected Clerk of the
 said County Commissioners Court -

Now if he the said Charles R. Matheny
 shall faithfully perform the duties of said
 Office as required by law then the above
 obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force
 & effect

C. R. Matheny Seal
 William Butler Seal
 A. Lincoln Seal
 Robert Allen Seal
 A. G. Herndon Seal

OVERSIZE
1921
LINC 13
c.3

DOCUMENT 12 – CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION OF LINCOLN’S
ELECTION TO THE ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 28, 1838

TRANSCRIPTION

State of Illinois }
Sangamon County } ss

I Charles R Matheny clerk of the County

Commissioners Court in and for Said County do hereby certify that

Abraham Lincoln was duly Elected Representative to the

General assembly of the State of Illinois from the County of

Sangamon at the general Election in August AD 1838

as appears from the Returns filed in My Office

Given under my hand and Seal of Office

at Springfield in Said County this 28th

day of August In the year of our Lord

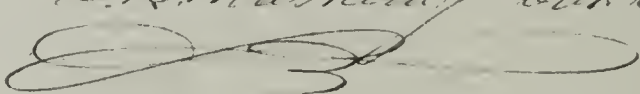
One thousand Eigth hunard & thirty Eight

C. R. Matheny Clk CCCrt

119-2009-12

State of Illinois
Laurens County

I Charles C. Matheny clerk of the County
Commissions Court in and for said County do hereby certify that
Abraham Lincoln was duly elected Representative to the
General Assembly of the State of Illinois from the County of
Laurens at the general election in August A.D. 1838
as appears from the returns filed in my Office.

Given under my hand and seal of Office
at Springfield in said County this 28th
day of August in the year of our Lord
One thousand eight hundred & thirty eight
C. C. Matheny Clerk 1838


DOCUMENT 13 – ENDORSEMENT OF ANTRIM CAMPBELL AS PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

September 13, 1838

TRANSCRIPTION

We the undersigned do hereby certify that Antrim Campbell has been engaged in the practice of the Law in Springfield for eight months last past, and from our knowledge of his character do believe him in every respect worthy of confidence and esteem, And we do also cheerfully recommend him to his Excellency Joseph Duncan Governor of the State of Illinois as fully qualified and competent to fulfill the duties of Prosecuting Attorney and would be much pleased to see him get the appointment to said office

Jai
Stephen T. Logan
E. D. Baker.
John T. Stuart
Ninian W. Edwards
Saml. H. Treat
J. Hewett
A Lincoln
Cyrus Walker

Springfield, Sept'r. 13th 1838

Hon J. Duncan—

Sir permit me to resign into your hands the trust confided to me by your Excellency as States Att'y for the First Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois—
To the best of my ability I have endeavored to discharge its duties during the brief term of my official existence. I shall ask that my resignation may not take effect until the 30 inst – until which time the duties will be discharged by a friend. With my thanks for the confidence evinced by my appointment, and my most ardent wishes for your

future happiness I Remain
Sir, Your Much Obliged and
Most Devoted Friend and
Obedient Servant
J. Hewitt

Hon. Joseph Duncan
Governor of the
State of Illinois.—
Jacksonville

Filed 15th Sept 1838
A P. Field
SecState

1838. Sept 13
Resignation of
Josephus Hewitt

We the undersigned do hereby certify that
 Abraham Lincoln has been inaugurated in the face
 view of the laws in Springfield for eight months
 past and from our firmest confidence of his charac-
 ter, we believe him in every respect worthy
 of confidence and esteem, and as also being
 fully recommended him to his Excellency
 John W. Brown Governor of the State of Missouri.
 as being qualified and competent to fulfill the
 duties of the exalted station and we would much
 rejoice to see before God the Administration to our of-
 ficial Stephen T. Logan

Ed Baker,

John J. Whitney
 Francis W. Whitney

Wm. H. West

E. Bennett

Frederick

Reynolds Allen

True friends of Freedom
 in your hearts believed and
 met. Beloved friend and
 friend of the people
 Stephen T. Logan

Governor of the
 State of Missouri

at Springfield
 Mo. Sept 1861

1838 Sept 13
 Declaration of
 the State of Missouri

DOCUMENT 14 – A BILL FOR AN ACT LIMITING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
AND CONSTABLES

December 13, 1838

TRANSCRIPTION

A bill for an act limiting Justices of the Peace
and Constables to their several Districts
respectively—

Sec. 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State
of Illinois represented in the General Assembly,
that hereafter it shall not be lawful for
any Justice of the Peace to issue any civil process
~~against~~ to be served on any person in a different
District from that in which such Justice shall
reside, except in cases where the cause of action
on which process is issued shall have accrued
in the District where such Justice shall reside
and the person against whom it shall issue shall
reside in a different one—

Sec: 2. That hereafter no constable shall serve any
civil process, issued by a Justice of the Peace unless
the same shall have been issued by a Justice re=
siding in the same district with such constable—

~~— Strike out all after the enacting clause
and insert the following —~~

~~— That hereafter it shall not be lawful for
any Justice of the peace to issue any civil process
upon any promissory notes or ^{any} other instrument in
writing for the payment of money property or other
valuable thing, to be served upon any person
residing without the limits of his Justice district~~

Strike out all after the enacting clause and
insert the following

A bill for an act limiting Justices of the Peace and Constables, to their several Districts, respectively —

Sec 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That hereafter it shall not be lawful for any Justice of the Peace to issue any civil process ~~except~~ to be served on any person in a different District from that in which such Justice shall reside, except in cases where the cause of action on which process is issued shall have occurred in the District where such Justice shall reside and the person against whom it shall issue shall reside in a different one —

Sec: 2. That hereafter no Constables shall serve any civil process, issued by a Justice of the Peace unless the same shall have been issued by a Justice residing in the same District with such Constable —

~~Strike out all after the enacting clause~~
and insert the following —

~~That hereafter it shall not be lawful for~~
any Justice of the Peace to issue any civil process upon any promissory note or ^{any} other instrument in writing for the payment of money for property or other valuable thing. to be served upon any person residing without the limits of his Justice District.

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following

DOCUMENT 15 – HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION CONCERNING PURCHASE
OF UNSOLD FEDERAL LANDS

January 17, 1839

TRANSCRIPTION

Resolved by the General Assembly of the state of
Illinois that the said State propose to purchase
of the government of the United States, all the lands
not sold or otherwise disposed of, within the limits
of said State, at the rate of twenty five cents per
acre, to be paid (unless otherwise agreed upon) at such
time, as the said government of the United States, shall
deliver over to the authorities of the ^{said} State of Illinois,
all the plats, Field Notes &c&c, pertaining to the sur=
veys of said lands—

Resolved, that the faith of the said State of Illinois
is hereby irrevocably pledged, to carry into effect
the foregoing proposal, if the government of the United
States shall accept the same within two years
from the passage hereof—

Resolved, that our Senators in Congress be instructed
and our Representatives requested, to use their best
exertions to procure the passage of a law or resolution of
Congress ~~of Congress~~ accepting the foregoing proposal—

Resolved that the Governor be requested to transmit
a copy of the foregoing resolution, to each of our Senators
and Representatives in Congress—

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois that the said State propose to purchase of the government of the United States, all the lands, not sold or otherwise disposed of, within the limit of said State, at the rate of twenty five cents, per acre, to be paid (unless otherwise agreed upon) at such time as the said government of the United States shall deliver over to the authorities of the ^{said} State of Illinois, the plats filed &c. &c. pertaining to the surveys of said lands—

Resolved that the faith of the said State of Illinois, hereby irrevocably pledged, to carry into effect the foregoing proposal, if the government of the United States shall accept the same within two years from the passage hereof—

Resolved that our Senators in Congress be instructed and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions, to procure the passage of a law or resolution of Congress accepting the foregoing proposal—

Resolved that the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution, to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress—

DOCUMENT 16 – A BILL FOR AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE BONDS OF
MATRIMONY BETWEEN NATHANIEL B. MARTIN AND
SARAH MARTIN HIS WIFE

January 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

A bill for an act to dissolve the bonds
of matrimony between Nathaniel B. Martin, and
Sarah Martin his wife—

Be it enacted by the people of the
state of Illinois represented in the Gen=
eral Assembly: That the bonds of matrim-
ony existing between Nathaniel B. Martin and
Sarah Martin, his wife, be, and they are
hereby forever dissolved—

A bill for an act to dissolve the bands
of matrimony between Nathaniel B. Martin, and
Sarah Martin his wife -

Be it enacted by the people of the
State of Ohio, for the purpose and to give
effect to the provisions that the bands of matrimony
now existing between Nathaniel B. Martin and
Sarah Martin his wife be and they are
sorely from dissolved -

DOCUMENT 17 – AMENDMENT TO A BILL FOR AN ACT CONCERNING
PUBLIC REVENUE

January 2, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

That hereafter all Revolutionary pensioners within this state, shall be permitted to loan all or any part of the money which they may have acquired exclusively by means of their pensions, without paying any tax whatever, therefor —

The assessors of the several counties within this state, shall take this production of the regular pension Certificate from the War office of the United States, as sufficient evidence that the person therein shown to be a Revolutionary pensioner is a Revolutionary pensioner; and shall then take the statement upon honor of such pensioner, as sufficient evidence of the facts whether he has any money loaned other than that acquired by means of his pension, and if so, how much, and on all other questions deemed necessary and proper under this act—

That hereafter, Revolutionary
Warriors within the State shall be
permitted to loan all, or any part of the money
which the State has in its possession
in, and for the purpose of
and use whatever they see fit—

He appears of the several countries
within this State, shall take the promise
of the recipient person, to return from the
time of the United States, a receipt cor-
responding that the person is to be
a temporary resident, and shall be taken the state-
ment upon honor of a person, is suffi-
cient evidence of the facts, and he has
any money loaned other than that received
by means of his person, and if so how
much, and on all other questions deemed
necessary and proper under this act—

DOCUMENT 18 – A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF
A HOUSE FOR THE USE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 24, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

A bill for an act authorizing the purchase
of a house for the use of the Governor.

Sec: 1st Be it enacted by the People of
the state of Illinois represented in the
General Assembly. That the Auditor
of Public Accounts be and he is hereby
authorized to purchase a suitable house
and lot, within the town of Springfield,
for a residence for the Governor of the
state, Provided the same shall not
cost more than eight thousand dollars.

Sec: 2nd The Auditor shall issue his warrant
on the Treasury for the amount agreed on
by him for said purchase, in favour of
the person or persons of whom said purchase
shall have been made—

Sec: 3rd Before issuing his warrant as afore=
said, ~~The~~ the Auditor shall particularly
enquire into and ascertain that a clear and
unencumbered title to the house and lot so
purchased can be made; and moreover shall
actually take a conveyance of such title
to the Governor of the state of Illinois for
the use of the People of said state—

Sec: 4th Upon the completion of such purchase
and conveyance, the Auditor shall notify
the Governor thereof; and after one month
subsequent to said notice, no allowance
for house rent, or traveling expenses shall
be made to the Governor—

A doc for an act authorizing the purchase
of land for the purpose of the present

Sec: 1st Be it enacted by the Senate and House of
Representatives of the State of Illinois, That the Auditor
of Public Accounts be and he is hereby
authorized to purchase a suitable house
and lot, within the town of Springfield,
for residence for the purpose of the
State, provided the purchase price does not
exceed more than eight hundred dollars.

Sec: 2nd The Auditor shall issue his warrant
on the treasury for the amount agreed on
for the purchase of land, in favor of
the person or persons of whose name purchase
shall have been made —

Sec: 3rd Before issuing his warrant as aforesaid,
the Auditor shall particularly
inquire into the facts, that a clear title
will be made to the land and lot so

purchase and be satisfied that the same shall
be a good title to the land and lot to the
State of Illinois, for
the use of the People of said State —

Sec: 4th Upon the completion of such purchase
and conveyance, the Auditor shall notify
the Governor thereof and after one month
has expired to send a copy of the same
for the use of the People of said State and shall
also send a copy of the same to the Governor.

DOCUMENT 19 – CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION OF LINCOLN'S
ELECTION TO THE TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

November 18, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

State of Illinois

Sangamon County I Noah W Matheny Clerk of the
County Commissioners Court of Sangamon County do hereby
certify that Abraham Lincoln Esqr. was Elected Repre=
=sentative to the Legislature of the State of Illinois from
the County of Sangamon at the General Election held the
first monday in August AD 1840 as appears from the
Election returns on file in my office

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
subscribed my name and affixed the
seal of said Court at Springfield this
18th November AD 1840

N W Matheny Clerk
_____"____"

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

State of Illinois
 Sangamon County $\frac{3}{4}$ I Noah W. Matheny Clerk of the
 County Commission of Sangamon County do hereby
 certify that Abraham Lincoln Esq. was elected Repre-
 sentative to the Legislature of the State of Illinois from
 the County of Sangamon at the General Election held on
 the first Monday in August A.D. 1841 as appears from the
 Election Returns on file in my office

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto
 subscribed my name and affixed the
 Seal of said County at Springfield this
 18th March A.D. 1840

Noah W. Matheny Clerk

DOCUMENT 20 – RESOLUTION NOTIFYING SENATE THAT THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES IS ORGANIZED

November 24, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

Resolved that the clerk of this House
inform the Senate, that they have met,
elected William Lee D. Ewing their Speaker,
John Calhoun their Principal clerk, George
Davis, their assistant clerk, Robert Smith
Engrossing and Erolling clerk, W. C Murphy
Principal Doorkeeper, & Benjamin Roberts
assistant Doorkeeper, and are now
ready to proceed to Legislative bussiness.

Resolved that the clerk of this House
 inform the Senate, that they have met,
 elected William Lee D. Ewing their Speaker
 John Calhoun their Principal Clerk, Geo. D.
 Davis their Assistant Clerk, Robert Smith
 Engraving and Enrolling Clerk, W. C. Murphy
 Principal Doorkeeper, & Benjamin Roberts
 Assistant Doorkeeper and are now
 ready to proceed to legislative business.

DOCUMENT 21 – RESOLUTION ON TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS

December 2, 1840

TRANSCRIPTION

Resolved, that the Committee on Education
be instructed to enquire into the expediency of
providing by law for the examination, as to their quali=
fications of persons offering themselves as School-teachers
and that no teacher shall receive any part of
Public
the ^ School Funds, who shall not have success=
fully passed such examination; and that they
report by Bill or otherwise—

Resolved, that the Committee on Education
 be instructed to enquire into the expediency of
 providing by law for the examination, to their qualifi-
 cations of persons offering themselves as School teachers,
 and that no teacher shall receive any part of
 the ^{Public} School Funds who shall not have success-
 fully passed such examinations, and that they
 pay for their attendance —

DOCUMENT 22 – A BILL FOR AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN DEBTORS
OF THE STATE TO DISCHARGE THEIR INDEBTEDNESS
IN ILLINOIS INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT SCRIP

January 27, 1841

TRANSCRIPTION

An act authorizing certain Debtors of the
State to discharge their indebtedness in Illinois
Internal Improvement Scrip —

Be it enacted by the People of the state
of Illinois represented in the General
Assembly: That the obligors upon a certain
bond executed by sundry citizens of the
City of Springfield, in ~~behalf~~ ^{behalf} favour of
the State of Illinois for the sum of fifty
thousand dollars, be authorized to discharge
the same or the ballance due thereon, in whole
~~and~~ or in part, in Illinois Internal Improve^{ment}_^
Scrip —

An act authorizing certain Sectors of the State to discharge their indebtedness in Illinois Internal Improvement Scrip—

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That the obligors upon a certain bond executed by sundry citizens of the City of Springfield, in ~~behalf~~ favor of the State of Illinois, for the sum of fifty thousand dollars, be authorized to discharge the same or the balances due thereon, in whole ^{or} in part, in Illinois Internal Improvement Scrip—

DOCUMENT 23 – ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY REGISTER OF BOOKS
LOANED

December 16, 1842

TRANSCRIPTION

Date of taking Books from Library	Date of ^{ier} the return	Description of Books taken	Names of persons who take them
1842 Dec. 16	1842 16 th Dec ^r .	Rev. Law N.Y. Vol 1 st	S. T. Logan
" " 17	"	1 st vol. Stephens —	} R. W. English
" " "	Dec 27	Central America &c	
" " "	19 th Dec ^r .	Laws of 1837	W ^m Fithian
" " "	Jan 19	Laws of Congress last session	J H Ralston
" " "	17 Dec. 1842	Vol. 2 nd & 3 Statutes N. Y-	Lot Whitcomb
" "	Dec. 27 –	vol. 2 nd Stephens Cen= tral America &c	} A W Cavarly.
" "	Dec 24 –	Dorseys Laws M ^d . 3 vols.	
" "	23 Dec ^r .	Jefferson's Works	} Lot Whitcomb
" "	"	Vol. 4 —	
" "	Feb 24	Jeffersons Manual	J,,J,,Danner
" "	Dec. 29th	Vol ^s . 1 & 2 Thiers French	} D L Gregg
" "		Revolution	
" "	Jan 18 ^t	H Journal 40-41	W ^m . M Jackson
" "	30 th Dec	President's Messages—	W. B Stapp
" "	24 th Dec ^r .	Geological Surveys N. York—	Henry Madden

Date of taking	Books from Library	Date of ^{their} return	Description of Books taken	Names of persons who take them
1842 Dec. 16 -	1842 16 th Dec ^r		Res. Sam. N.Y. Vol 1 st	S. J. Logan
" " 17	" "		1 st Vol. Stephens	} W. R. English
" " "	Dec 27		Central America &c.	
" " "	19 th Dec ^r		Laws of 1837	Wm. Fickian
" " "	Jan 19		Laws of Congress last session	J. K. Ralston
" " "	17 Dec. 1842		Vol. 2 nd V.B. Statutes N.Y.	Lot Whitcomb
" " "	Dec. 27 -		Vol. 2 nd Stephens	} M. C. Avery
" " "	Dec 24 -		trial America &c	
" " "	Dec 24 -		Dorsey's Laws M ^t 3000s.	Lot Whitcomb
" " "	23 Dec ^r		Jefferson's Works	} John Moore
" " "	" "		Vol. 4 -	
" " "	Dec 24		Jefferson's Manual	J. L. Danner
" " "	Dec. 29 th		Vol. 1 & 2 Thiers &c	} D. Spragg
" " "	" "		Revolution	
" " "	Jan 18 th		H. Journal 4041	Mr. M. Jackson
" " "	30 th Dec		President C. Murray	N. B. Stapp
" " "	24 th Dec ^r		Biological Survey	} Henry
" " "	" "		N. York -	

DOCUMENT 24 – PETITION TO THE COUNTY COURT COMMISSIONERS
FOR CONSTABLE OF COLES COUNTY, PLEASANT
GROVE PRECINCT

(ca.) 1843

TRANSCRIPTION

To the honorable County Commissioners of Coles County
Ill^s. we your petitioners pray your honorable body
to appoint John D. Johnston Constable in and
for the pleasant Grove precinct to fill the Vac
=ancy of Daniel P. Needham resigned and in
duty bound your petitioners will ever pray &c

Charles Bolen

John Fulfer

Squire Hall

Thomas Lincoln

Heazakiah Balch

T. L. Balch

W^m L Balch

M. Tallon

James D anderson

B.. Owens

Nathaniel Owens

Jepha Owens

J.. Chowings

Dick Fancher

Patrick Gordan

Daniel Gordan

To the Honorable County Commissioners of Coles County
 We your petitioners pray your honorable body
 to appoint John D. Johnston Constable in and
 for the Pleasant Grove precinct to fill the vacan-
 -ancy of Daniel P. Kedron resigned and in
 duty bound your petitioners will ever remain &c.

Hall

Thomas Lincoln

Henry Rich Balch

J. I. Balch

Wm I Balch

Mr. Talley

James Anderson

B. Owens

Nathanial Owens

Lepta Owens

J. C. Howings

Dick Lancher

Patrick Gordon

Daniel Gordon

DOCUMENT 25 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR THOMAS FORD FOR A
PARDON IN THE CASE OF SAMUEL SMITH OF
SANGAMON COUNTY

1845

TRANSCRIPTION

To the Honorable the Governor of the State
of Illinois

Thoma^S. Ford

Your Petitioners would
respectfully represent that Samuel Smith a citizen
of this State and of Sangamon, was at the last
Term of the Circuit Court, indicted for an assault by
the Grand jurors of said County and convicted by the
petit jurors of an assault and sentenced by the
Honorable Judge of the Circuit, Samuel H. Treat, to
three days imprisonment and ten dollars fine and
pay the Cost of suit. Your petitioners would further
respectfully represent that the Said Saml. Smith has
lain in the county jail all the said term and several
days more and that he is still in jail and is a poor
man and is unable to pay the fine and costs of suit
and they would most respectfully ^{ask}~~beg~~ of Your Excellency
to release him from prison, so that he may pay the
fine and cost of suit

Names	Names
David H. Hermon	W. H. Herndon
A. Lincoln	
S T Logan	
Wm. Pope	James Dougless
R Herndon	Tho ^S Strawbridge
E Darling	J. L. Canfield
J. H Meriweather	Seth R Cutter
J. Bunn	Nicholas Bryan
R. H. Proctor	<u>Waterman P. Allen</u>
J. A. Ball	lenard Mitts
John S Clayton	
S. H. Treat.	

To the Honorable the Governor of the State
of Illinois
Thomas A. Ford

Yours Petitioners would
respectfully represent that Samuel Smith a citizen
of this State and of Sangamon, was at the last
Term of the Circuit Court, indicted for an assault by
the Grand Jurors of said Court and convicted by the
petit Jurors of an assault and sentenced by the
Honorable Judge of the Circuit Samuel S. Great, to
three days imprisonment and ten dollars fine and
pay the Cost of suit. Your Petitioners would further
respectfully represent that the said Saml. Smith has
been in the Court jail all the said time and several
days more and that he is still in jail and is a poor
man and is unable to pay the fine and costs of suit
and they would most respectfully ^{ask} of Your Excellency
to release him from prison, so that he may pay the
fine and Cost of suit

Names

Samuel H. Hermon

A. Lincoln

J. T. Logan

W. T. Logan

R. Hermon

E. D. Arlman

M. H. Merriam

J. R. Merriam

R. H. Percher

J. F. Ball

W. H. Ball

J. H. Ball

Names

M. H. Hermon

J. Douglas

Wm. H. Ball

Lethe R. Cottle

Nicholas Bryan

Waterman B. Allen

Edward Mott

DOCUMENT 26 – ELECTION RETURNS–SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1846

TRANSCRIPTION

1846
General Election
Members 29th Congress of the
United States. Continued

Sixth Congressional District

Counties	Thomas. J. Turner	James. Knox	Wade. Talcott	Scattering
Jo DAVISse	1459	1429	19	7
Stephenson	438	434	33	
Winnebago	532	679	226	
Carroll	262	347	2	
Ogle	518	582	183	
Lee	391	273	65	
Whiteside	370	366	63	
Rock Island	463	491	32	
Henry	205	157	46	
Stark	220	207	57	
Mercer	361	369	24	
Henderson	301	382		2
Warren	532	580	45	9
Knox	758	825	141	
M ^c Donough	567	542	11	
Hancock	1466	793		
	8843	8456	947	18

Seventh Congressional District

Counties	Peter Cartwright	Abraham Lincoln	Elihue Walcot
Putnam	213	216	139
Marshall	323	252	21
Woodford	300	215	15
Tazewell	436	819	42
Mason	294	330	
Menard	336	456	
Cass	489	546	
Morgan	949	979	18
Scott	478	602	
Logan	166	390	
Sangamon	845	1535	14
	4829	6340	249

1846
General Election
Members 29th Congress of the
United States. Continued

Sixth Congressional District

Counties	Thomas J. Furner	James Knob	Wade Falcott	Scattering
Jo Dairre	1 4 5 9	1 4 2 9	1 9	
Stephenson	4 3 8	4 3 4	3 3	4
Winnemago	5 3 2	6 4 9	2 2 6	
Carroll	2 6 2	3 4 4	2	
Ogle	5 1 8	5 8 2	1 8 3	
Lee	3 9 1	2 4 3	6 5	
Whiteside	3 7 0	3 6 6	6 3	
Rock Island	4 6 3	4 9 1	3 2	
Henry	2 0 5	1 5 4	4 6	
Stark	2 2 0	2 0 4	5 4	
Mercer	3 6 1	3 6 9	2 4	
Henderson	3 0 1	3 8 2		2
Warren	5 3 2	5 8 0	4 5	9
Chick	4 5 8	8 2 5	1 4 1	
McDonough	5 6 4	5 4 2	1 1	
Hancock	1 4 6 6	4 9 3		
	8 8 4 3	8 4 5 6	9 4 4	1 8

Seventh Congressional District

Counties	Peter Cartwright	Abraham Lincoln	Elihu Walcutt
Putnam	2 1 3	2 1 6	1 3 9
Marshall	3 2 3	2 5 2	2 1
Woodford	3 0 0	2 1 5	1 5
Fazell	4 3 6	8 1 9	4 2
Mason	2 9 4	3 3 0	
Menard	3 3 6	4 5 6	
Cass	4 8 9	5 4 6	
Morgan	9 4 9	9 7 9	1 8
Scott	4 4 8	6 0 4	
Jogan	1 6 6	3 9 0	
Huganum	8 4 5	1 5 3 5	1 4
	4 8 2 9	6 3 4 0	2 4 9

DOCUMENT 27 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR AUGUSTUS C. FRENCH FOR
THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM B. FONDEY AS A
NOTARY PUBLIC

March 7, 1850

TRANSCRIPTION

Hon. A. C. French Governor of Illinois.

Sir,, The undersigned your petitioners
legal voters of the City of Springfield would respectfully
request that your Excellency appoint W^m B. Fonday
as an additional Notary Public for this City. and as
in duty bound &c- March 7th 1850

Tho H Campbell	A. G. Henry
M. Brayman	Walter Davis
W ^m . Stadden	R P Abel
E. Moore	T. R. King
P. Shutt	<u>L. B. Adams</u>
D. B Campbell	<u>R. W. Diller</u>
A,,Lincoln	C. S. Corneau
John B. Moffett	R. Coon
E B Herndon	A O Millington
S. C. Runyon	S. B. Moody
J. D. Stratton	<u>J M Morse</u>
J C Sutton	Benjamin Talbott
T. J. V. Owen	Jos Klein.
N S Bates	S. G. Jones
J. M. Burkhardt	I. S. Britton
John <u>G. Ives</u>	John E Roll
E. Bliss	W. T. Gibbons
I B Curran	James H. Matheny
Geo,, Eastman	W Harvey
W ^m Mourer	J W Hampton
John C. Lamb	Henry C Beers
James L. Lamb	Richard Herndon
Charles B. Pelton	Thos R Mauzy
Hiram Walker	F. Clinton
C. W. Matheny	<u>Daniel Ragsdale</u>
B. C. Webster	Leighton G. Moore
Asa Eastman	
R. M. Ridgely	
Cha ^s P. Webster	

Hon. A. C. French Governor of Illinois.

The undersigned your petitioners
 legal voters of the City of Springfield would respectfully
 request that your Excellency appoint Wm B. Fendley
 as an additional City Public for this City. and as
 in duty bound &c.

March 7th 1860

Thos. Campbell
 M. Brayman
 Wm. Tadden

E. Moore

P. Chubb

Wm. P. Campbell

J. Lincoln

John B. Moffett

W. B. Henderson

J. C. P. P. P. P.

J. S. D. D. D.

J. C. D. D.

J. C. D. D.

N. S. Bates

J. C. D. D.

J. C. D. D.

E. Bliss

L. J. L. L.

Geo. Eastman

Wm. Howes

John C. Lamb

James L. Lamb

Charles B. Patton

Florian Walker

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

Geo. Eastman

P. M. D. D.

Chas. P. Webster

A. G. Henry
 Walter Davis
 R. T. Uhl

J. S. King

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

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J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

J. S. D. D.

DOCUMENT 28 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR JOEL A. MATTESON FROM
LINCOLN REQUESTING A PARDON FOR WILLIAM D.
DAVIS

January 10, 1853

TRANSCRIPTION

Springfield, Jan^y 10. 1853.

His Excellency, the Governor
of the State of Illinois—

Sir:

In July 1850, a
man by the name of William D. Davis, was
tried and convicted of the crime Manslaughter
and sentenced to the Penitentiary for the term
of three years, by the circuit court of Clark
county, whither his case had been taken
by a change of venue from Coles county—
I assisted in his defence, and thought his
conviction was right, but that the term fixed
was too long under the circumstances— I
told him that if he should behave him=
self well for a considerable portion of the
time, I would join in asking a pardon
for the remainder— He has a young family,
and has lost one of his arms— He has
now served about five sixths of his time;
and I understand, the Warden, who is now
in Springfield, testifies that he has be=
haved well— Under these circumstances, I hope
he may be released from further confinement—

Your Ob^t Serv^t A., Lincoln

Springfield, Jan^y 10. 1853.
 His Excellency, the Governor
 of the State of Illinois—
 Sir:

In July 1850, a man by the name of William D. Davis, was tried and convicted of the crime Manslaughter and sentenced to the Penitentiary for the term of three years, by the Circuit Court of Clark County, whither his case had been taken by a change of venue from Coles County—
 I assisted in his defence, and thought his conviction was right, but that the term fixed was too long under the circumstances— I told him that if he should behave himself well for a considerable portion of the term, I would join in asking a pardon for the remainder— He has a young family, and has lost one of his arms— He has now served about five sixths of his time, and I understand, the Warden, who is now in Springfield, testifies that he has behaved well— Under these circumstances, I hope he may be released from further confinement—

Your Obedt Servt— A. Lincoln

DOCUMENT 29 – NOTICE FROM CLERK OF SANGAMON COUNTY THAT
LINCOLN HAS DECLINED TO SERVE IN THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

November 27, 1854

TRANSCRIPTION

County Clerks Office

Springfield Illinois

November 27 1854

J A Matteson

Govenor of the State of Illinois

Sir

You are hereby notified
that Abraham Lincoln has filed in my office
a notice decling to accept the office of Representative
in the General Assembly of the State of Illinois
for the County of Sangamon to which office he was
Elected on the 7th Nov past

Verry Respectfully

Your Obt Servt

N W Matheny

Clerk County Court

Sangamon County

County Clerk's Office
Springfield Illinois

November 27 1854

S. A. Mattison
Governor of the State of Illinois

Sir

You are hereby notified
that Abraham Lincoln has filed in my office
a notice declaring to accept the office of Representative
in the General Assembly of the State of Illinois
for the County of Sangamon to which office he was
elected on the 7th Nov here

Very Respectfully

Yours Obedt Servt

A. W. Maskey
Clerk County Court
Sangamon County

DOCUMENT 30 – LETTER TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM BISSELL FROM
LINCOLN CONCERNING A PARDON FOR SAMUEL AND
JAMES JONES

March 22, 1858

TRANSCRIPTION

Lincoln, March 22- 1858

His Excellency

W. H. Bissell

Dear Sir

Samuel Jones and James

Jones, at court here last week, were found guilty
of stealing five shoats, or small hogs– I have
been appealed to, to say something in favor of
their being pardoned– They are father and
son– I know nothing to say, except that
he is an old citizen (I mean the father) and
his neighbors appear more anxious that he
and his son should be pardoned, than
I have known in any other case– This
is really all can say– I was not concerned
in the trial; and consequently did not lis=
ten to the evidence–

Your Ob^t Serv^t

A,, Lincoln–

Lincoln, March 22-1858

His Excellency

W. H. Bennett

Dear Sir

Samuel Jones and James Jones, at court here last week, were found guilty of stealing five hogs, or small hogs. I have been appealed to, to say something in favor of their being pardoned. They are father and son. I know nothing to say, except that he is an old citizen (I mean the father) and his neighbors appear now anxious that he and his son should be pardoned, than I have known in any other case. This is really all I can say. I was not concerned in the trial, and consequently did not listen to the evidence.

Yours obt. Servt
A. Lincoln.

DOCUMENT 31 – PETITION TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM BISSELL FOR A
PARDON IN THE CASE OF DAVID THOMPSON

April 1858

TRANSCRIPTION

A L Doty	B. M. Day
Nicholas Fail	James Berry
Thomas Green	James Piper
James A Sherman	M. L. Fuller Pastor Bap ^l Ch.
James Ley	J,, W, Arnold
William L. Ley	John Sears
John Bennett	H, D, Horton
John Summers.	Norman Dutton
J. J. Jones	Christian Dellenbach
W. F. Myers.	S. Hesse

I tried the above case &
think that the Defendant
should be parddoned

D Davis

April 9, 1858 Judge 8th

I was appointed by the court to defend
the above named David Thompson– I thought at
the time his conviction was wrong, and I am now
clearly of opinion he ought to be pardoned–
I have recently been at Woodford; and the uni-
versal sentiment there seems to be in favor of
his pardon– April 12, 1858.

A,, Lincoln

V. L. Dady
 Nicholas Trail
 Thomas Green
 James A. Sherman
 James Ley
 William L. Lee
 John Tompkins
 John Amers.
 G. A. Jones
 W. H. Moses.

B. M. Day
 James Berry
 James Dyer
 Mr. L. Fuller Pastor Bapt. Ch.
 of "M. Church"
 John Sears
 H. D. Horton
 German Cullon
 William Tallmadge
 J. H. Hays.

I tried the above case &
 think that the defendant
 should be pardoned.

April 9, 1858. D. D. Dwyer
 Justice

I was appointed by the court to represent
 the above named David Thompson. I thought at
 the time his conviction was wrong, and I am now
 clearly of opinion he ought to be pardoned —
 I have recently been at Worcester, and there
 several gentlemen there seem to be in favor of
 his pardon — April 12, 1858.

A. Lincoln

OVERSIZE
1921
LINC 13
c.3

DOCUMENT 32 – 1859 HOUSE JOURNAL ENTRY ON THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS ELECTION

January 5, 1859

TRANSCRIPTION

36

to their names– Mr Epler offered the following Resolution– Resolved that the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that the House of Representatives is now ready to receive them in joint Session for the purpose of voting for a United States Senator

Mr Caspar Butz member elect from Cook County then came forward presented his credentials and was sworn as a member of this House

Mr Epler’s Resolution was then taken up considered and adopted

The Seargent at arms of the Senate announced the Senate and proceeded by their Speaker, the Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the Representatives Seats assigned them

On motion of Senator Kuykendall a call of the joint Session was ordered and all of the members thereof answered to their names

Mr Speaker then announced that nominations for the Office of Senator of the United States for the term of Six years from and after the 4th day of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine would be in order

Whereupon Mr Barrett nominated Stephen A Douglas

Mr Judd nominated Abraham Lincoln

On motion of Mr Peck the door keeper was ordered to clear the Galleries of all persons except ladies.

Mr Speaker then ordered the roll to be called and the members of the Joint Session to vote for their respective Canidates for the Office of Senator of the United States for the term of Six years from and after the 4th day of March next 1859.

The roll of the two Houses being called it appeared that Stephen A Douglas received 54 votes

Abraham Lincoln received 46 votes

Those voting for Mr Douglas are Messrs Brooks

Bryan Buckmaster Coffey Fuller Goudy Higbee Knapp Kuykendall Martin O’Kean Post Richmond Underwood of the Senate and

Messrs Anderson Bane Barrett Berry Brewwer Campbell of Logan Cummings Davis of Montgomery

37

Hampton Hardin Hick of Gallitin Hitt Hoiles Job, Kerley King M^cCleave M^cElvin Metcalf Powell Pulley Rosevelt Rush Shaw Sherley Short Sloss Stephenson Updegraph Wilson Wood Mr Speaker

Of the House of Representatives Those voting for Mr Lincoln are Messrs Adams of Lee Adams of Stephenson

Applington Bestor Blodgett Cook Henderson Judd Marshall Parks Vanderen

Of the Senate and Messrs Baker Blaisdell Brace

Bryant Butz Campbell of La Salle Church Cradock Davis of Stephenson Dewolf Gilmore Haines Harmon Hick of Livings =ton Higgins Hood Hurlburt Jarrot Mack M^cCall Miles Moore Mosely Norton Patton Peck Plato Prothow Rice Scheel Stickel Swett Townsend Verlnilyea White

Of the House of Representatives whereupon Mr Speaker announced

That Stephen A Douglas was duly elected Senator of the United States for the term of Six years from and after the 4th day of March one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine

The President of the Senate then announced that the object of the joint Ses-sion having been accomplished the Senate would withdraw to their Chamber

Whereupon the Senate withdrew On motion of Mr Hitt the House adjourned until to-morrow morning

9. O’Clock

D. E Head, Clerk House of Representatives

to their names - Mr. Ephraim Wood of the following Declaration -
 Resolved That the State of the House inform the Senate that
 the House of Representatives is now ready to receive them in
 joint session for the purpose of voting for a United States
 Senator

Mr. Baynes duly meets elect from both County then
 came forward presented his credentials and was sworn as
 a member of the House

Mr. Ephraim Wood then was taken
 up examined and accepted

The Journals at once of the House
 announced the Senate and proceeded by their Speaker the
 Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and
 with the Representatives duly assigned their

The motion of
 Speaker Hughman a call of the joint session was ordered
 and all of the members being answered to their names

The Speaker then announced that nominations for the Office
 of Senator of the United States for the term of six years from
 and after the 4th day of March one thousand eight hundred
 and fifty nine would be in order

Whereupon Mr. Barrett
 nominated Stephen A. Douglas

Mr. David Dickinson
 directed

The motion of Mr. Hall the door keeper was order-
 ed to clear the galleries of all persons except ladies.

Mr. Speaker then ordered the roll to be called and the mem-
 bers of the joint session to vote for their respective candidates
 for the Office of Senator of the United States for the term of
 six years from and after the 4th day of March next 1859.

The roll of the two Houses being called it appeared that
 Stephen A. Douglas received 54 votes

Abraham Lincoln
 received 46 votes

These voting for Mr. Douglas are
 (Majority) Baynes
 Buchanan
 Douglass
 Fremont
 Hall
 Hendricks
 Johnson
 Keith
 Lincoln
 Lyman
 McKim
 Phelps
 Seward
 Sumner
 Tilden
 Van Buren
 Webb
 Wright
 Wood
 Woodworth
 Wright
 Young

Major Anderson
 Major Bennett
 Major Brown
 Major Campbell
 Major Chandler
 Major Cook
 Major Davidson
 Major Edwards
 Major Evans
 Major Fox
 Major Gibson
 Major Hall
 Major Hendricks
 Major Johnson
 Major Keith
 Major Lincoln
 Major Lyman
 Major McKim
 Major Phelps
 Major Seward
 Major Sumner
 Major Tilden
 Major Van Buren
 Major Webb
 Major Wright
 Major Wood
 Major Woodworth
 Major Wright
 Major Young

Mr. Stephen Wood of the following Declaration -
 Resolved That the State of the House inform the Senate that
 the House of Representatives is now ready to receive them in
 joint session for the purpose of voting for a United States
 Senator

Mr. Baynes duly meets elect from both County then

came forward presented his credentials and was sworn as
 a member of the House

Mr. Ephraim Wood then was taken

up examined and accepted
 The Journals at once of the House
 announced the Senate and proceeded by their Speaker the
 Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and
 with the Representatives duly assigned their

The motion of
 Speaker Hughman a call of the joint session was ordered
 and all of the members being answered to their names

The Speaker then announced that nominations for the Office
 of Senator of the United States for the term of six years from
 and after the 4th day of March one thousand eight hundred
 and fifty nine would be in order

Whereupon Mr. Barrett
 nominated Stephen A. Douglas
 directed

The motion of Mr. Hall the door keeper was order-
 ed to clear the galleries of all persons except ladies.

Mr. Speaker then ordered the roll to be called and the mem-
 bers of the joint session to vote for their respective candidates
 for the Office of Senator of the United States for the term of
 six years from and after the 4th day of March next 1859.

The roll of the two Houses being called it appeared that
 Stephen A. Douglas received 54 votes

Abraham Lincoln
 received 46 votes

These voting for Mr. Douglas are
 (Majority) Baynes
 Buchanan
 Douglass
 Fremont
 Hall
 Hendricks
 Johnson
 Keith
 Lincoln
 Lyman
 McKim
 Phelps
 Seward
 Sumner
 Tilden
 Van Buren
 Webb
 Wright
 Wood
 Woodworth
 Major Wright
 Major Young

Major Anderson
 Major Bennett
 Major Brown
 Major Campbell
 Major Chandler
 Major Cook
 Major Davidson
 Major Edwards
 Major Evans
 Major Fox
 Major Gibson
 Major Hall
 Major Hendricks
 Major Johnson
 Major Keith
 Major Lincoln
 Major Lyman
 Major McKim
 Major Phelps
 Major Seward
 Major Sumner
 Major Tilden
 Major Van Buren
 Major Webb
 Major Wright
 Major Wood
 Major Woodworth
 Major Wright
 Major Young

DOCUMENT 33 – LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM
SEWARD TO ILLINOIS GOVERNOR RICHARD J.
OGLESBY

March 12, 1866

TRANSCRIPTION

Washington, March 12th 1866.

Sir:

Willis A. Bogart, is a colored man,
who, I think, has been in some ca-
pacity in the military service; perhaps
only a servant in the quarter-master's,
or some other department. He certain-
ly was disabled in the war.

In former times he was a ser-
vant of mine. His mother, Harriet
C. Bogart, is an exemplary and es-
timable woman, and has for more
than thirty years been connected



Washington, March 12th 1890.

Sir:

Willis A. Bogart, is a colored man who, I think, has been in some capacity in the military service; perhaps only a servant in the Quarter-masters' or some other department. He certainly was disabled in the war.

In former times he was a servant of mine. His mother, Harriet C. Bogart, is an exemplary and estimable woman, and has for more than thirty years been connected

DOCUMENT 34 – REMINISCENCES OF WILLIAM L. WILSON TO ATTORNEY
GENERAL JAMES MCCARTNEY REGARDING ABRAHAM
LINCOLN

February 3, 1882

TRANSCRIPTION

Rushville Feb 3^d 1882

James McCartney

Atty Gen State of Illinois

My Dear Sir

I wish to inform you that
I was in the black Hawk War and my
my mind runs back to the memorable
Event of Stillmans defeat on the night
of the 14 day of May 1832= I was there
on the night of the 15^t also and camped
with Gen. Sam'l Whitesides Brigade and
what a time we did have— you ought
to have been there and shared the fun
and on the 16th of same month we went
to work to find who was killed and found
Eleven- Which we resigned to their last
resting place- God be with them on the
17th we returned to dixon on Rock
River and on the eighteenth we started
again after the red skins. And found
them not= I have, during that time
had—much fun with the afterwards
President of the U S Abraham Lincoln.
I remember one time of wrestling with
him. two best in three an ditched
him—he was not satisfied and we
tried it in a foot race-. for a five dollar
bill I won the money and it is spent
long ago. An many more reminiscences
could I give but am of the Quaker
persuasion and not much givted in
writing

William. L. Wilson

Russville Feb 3^d 1859

James McArthur
Atty Gen State of Illinois
My Dear Sir

I wish to inform you that
I was in the black Hawk war and my
my mind runs back to the memorable
Event of Stillmans defeat on the night
of the 14th day of May 1832. I was there
on the night of the 15th also and camped
with Gen. Saml Whitesides Brigade and
what a time we did have - you ought
to have been there and shared the fun
and on the 16th of same month we went
to work to find who was killed and found
Eleon. which was assigned to their last
resting place God be with them on the
17th we returned to Dixon on Rock
River and on the eighteenth we started
again after the Red skins. and found
them not. I have, during that time
had much fun with the afterwards.
President of the U S Abraham Lincoln
I remember one time of wrestling with
him. two bot in three and outchd
him. - he was not satisfied and we
tried it on a foot race for a five dollar
bill I won the money and it is spent
long ago. and many more amusements
could I give but one of the Quaker
persuasion and not much good in
center

William F. Wilson
Russville Ill

William F. Wilson

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DOCUMENT 35 – CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GOVERNOR RICHARD
YATES AND ROBERT T. LINCOLN

May 20, 1901

TRANSCRIPTION

PULLMAN BUILDING.
CHICAGO.

OFFICIAL.

May 20th, 1901.

Hon. Richard Yates,
Governor, Springfield, Ill.

My Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks,
the receipt of your letter of May 17th, through
Mr. Bayliss, in relation to the Lincoln Monument
at Springfield.

If I do not hear from you that the time is
not entirely convenient, I will arrive at Spring-
field by the Alton road at 2:20 in the afternoon,
next Thursday, and will arrange to have a carriage
meet me at the station, as I would like to go at
once to the Monument, and afterwards to consult
with such members of the Board as may find it con-
venient to meet me.

I would be greatly obliged if my visit, and

especially its object, should be kept confidential,
as I should very much regret to see it made a
subject of comment in the newspapers.

I am
Very respectfully yours,
Robert T. Lincoln

entirely
satisfactory
~~wire Cochran &~~
~~Wood & Wright corner~~
~~130 - S Orphans Bd~~

100-014000-0

PULLMAN BUILDING,
CHICAGO.

CHICAGO.

OFFICIAL
NG.

May 20th, 1901.

Hon. Richard Yates,

Governor, Springfield, Ill.

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I would be greatly obliged if my visit, and

especially its object, should be kept confidential, as I should very much regret to see it made a subject of comment in the newspapers.

I am

Very respectfully yours,

For men

W. H. H. H.

175/100

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My dear Mr. [illegible]

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